

Wyoming Preview • Tiana Reeves Volleyball Feature • Q & A - Jordan Westerkamp

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HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

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Dylan Utter



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HUSKERS HONOR THE MEMORY OF SAM FOLTZ

SATURDAY NIGHT'S FRESNO STATE GAME WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SAM FOLTZ'S LAST FIRST GAME AS A HUSKER.

It was supposed to be the start of what many predicted was going to be an All-American senior campaign as Nebraska's punter.

Joy and elation were supposed to fill the whole Foltz family as they watched him run out of the Tunnel Walk.

Instead it was a much different scene on Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

The evening was definitely about Foltz, but in a different way than all wanted since his sudden passing on July 23 in an automobile accident in Wisconsin.

Despite the five weeks since Foltz's death, the pain and emotion were still raw and real as it was the first regular-season game that he was not there.

Even before the game at local establishments in downtown Lincoln, Foltz was on fan's minds.

As "Small Town" by John Cougar Mellencamp began to play at Yowies, the DJ stated, "We lost a very special person this summer. Raise your glass or raise your shoe for Sam Foltz."

During The Sidetrack Band's rendition of Don McLean's "American Pie," they inserted the names Brook Berringer and Sam Foltz into the chorus about the day the music died."

Many of the 90,013 fans passed by the northwest corner of Memorial Stadium before entering to stop and look at the memorial wall dedicated to Foltz's memory and time at Nebraska. This wall includes pictures of him holding his Nebraska diploma, kneeling in the end zone, running in the Uplifting Athletes race and celebrating plays on the field – a fitting tribute to the well-rounded person who he was.

About 30 minutes before the game, junior kicker Drew Brown was presented the first-ever Sam Foltz Memorial Football Scholarship as he was flanked



by members of the Foltz family.

This may have been the most heart-breaking moment of the night as the whole Foltz family, including Sam's young nephews, siblings and parents were out there on Tom Osborne Field honoring his memory with what will become an annual scholarship and presentation before the first game.

Mother Jill Foltz hugged Brown, who was one of Sam's best friends on the football team, multiple times as the crowd gave a standing ovation.

From there, Sam's two nephews, Lane and Max Foltz, joined the football team, and along with kickers Spencer Lindsay and Brown, led the Huskers out of The Tunnel Walk."

The Foltz tributes were not done.

Following Nebraska's first three-and-out offensive possession of the game, the Nebraska punt unit went out and left an empty spot where Foltz normally would have been.

As the crowd caught on to what was going on, Fresno State players stood up and applauded, several Nebraska players pointed up to the sky and the 348th-straight sellout crowd at Memorial Stadium roared even louder.

Nebraska was called for a delay of game penalty, and Fresno State graciously declined the penalty in a nice sign of sportsmanship and respect.

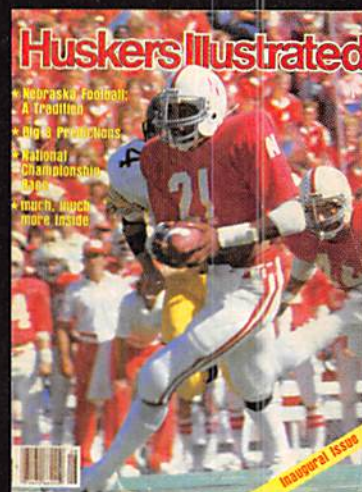
There likely will be other tributes and tough moments throughout the season – like when freshman Caleb Lightbourn had his second punt blocked on Saturday – but it should get easier now that this first game without Foltz is over.

The rainy and somber weather conditions finally gave way to a few moments of sunshine at about 7:41 p.m. A rainbow shown in the eastern sky, almost like a sign from up above, letting fans and players know that No. 27 was looking down and wanting everyone to carry on and go about how this season was supposed to be before his death.

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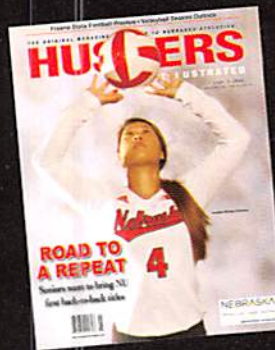
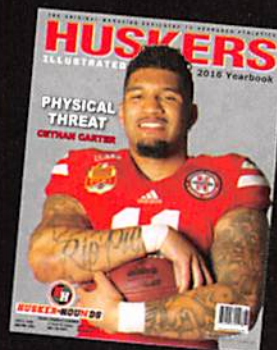
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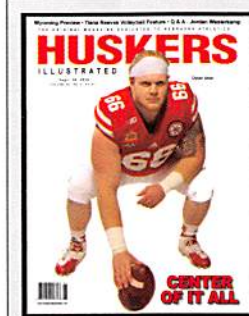
BY LANNY HOLSTEIN

Senior wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp was inspired by his mother to major in business administration at NU. When not playing football, he also likes to strum on his guitar.

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 3	FRESNO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7P.M.	43-10
SEPT. 10	WYOMING	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	ESPN2
SEPT. 17	OREGON	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	ABC
SEPT. 24	@NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILLINOIS	6:30P.M.	BTN
OCT. 1	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	TBA
OCT. 15	@INDIANA	BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA	2:30P.M.	TBA
OCT. 22	PURDUE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA
OCT. 29	@WISCONSIN	MADISON, WISCONSIN	6P.M.	ABC/ESPN
NOV. 5	@OHIO STATE	COLUMBUS, OHIO	7P.M.	ABC/ESPN
NOV. 12	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6:30 P.M.	BTN
NOV. 19	MARYLAND	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA
NOV. 25	@IOWA	IOWA CITY, IOWA	TBA	TBA

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Nebraska senior lineman Dylan Utter has gone from a walk-on who wasn't sure if he wanted to continue playing football for the Huskers to one of four captains this season. Utter also has transitioned into the starting center position for his senior year.

PHOTO BY MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER

RECRUITING EDITOR

HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

NU hosts 10 visitors at opener, focuses on receivers

Nebraska's need at wide receiver amplified after Derrion Grim decided to request his release from the university.

The freshman, who set records in California, was poised to be a key part of the rotation over the next couple seasons.

However, Grim chose to leave Nebraska because of a disagreement with his role and the structure of Nebraska's offense.

The freshman had expected more four wide receiver sets than what he was seeing during practices.

The absence of Grim won't affect the 2016 season as the Huskers have a lot of depth at the position and people battling for playing time, but the majority of the depth clears out when seniors Alonzo Moore, Brandon Reilly and Jordan Westerkamp graduate.

Something else to consider, and it goes to an issue Grim said he had with the offense, but Nebraska will need to rely on its receivers more in 2017 because the team will also lose Cethan Carter, Sam Cotton and Trey Foster to graduation.

The Huskers spend a fair amount of time in a double tight end set, but without quality or proven backups ready, it will likely turn to a different look going forward.

Nebraska will likely end up with at least four wide receivers in the class, but adding a fifth would be a good move given the high amount of turnover. Nebraska has had several wide receivers quit or transfer in recent seasons.

As it stands in 2017 the



Austin Allen and Tristan Gebbian were among the visitors for the Fresno State game.

Huskers will have on scholarship at receiver: De'Mornay Pierson-El, Stanley Morgan, Lavan Alston, Keyan Williams and JD Spielman, as well as current commits Jaevon McQuitty and Keyshawn Johnson.

There's a lot of playing time to be had for potential additions.

Nebraska's need at wide receiver has already been addressed with Joseph Lewis and Jamire Calvin. Both receivers acknowledged the chances of playing early increased when Grim left the team.

"Nebraska hasn't really talked about it a lot," he said. "They were basically saying that it opens a bigger door. Freshman year you really have a big opportunity to come in and play freshman year.

Receivers coach Keith Williams said he doesn't want any of the incoming freshmen to redshirt, so I would have to play. Calvin said he's embracing that concept and it has Nebraska standing out.



Gebbian visits with former Husker Ahman Green on Saturday.

"That's always been my plan," he said. "I wanted to play as a true freshman and come in and make as big of an impact as I can."

The Huskers are actively recruiting Calvin, Lewis and Tyjon Lindsey, but the team could and should double back on a few guys like Da'Ron Davis, Maurice Bell, Jeremiah Hawkins and others who might already be committed. There's no harm in seeing if

there's still interest, especially if they've already visited the Huskers once.

Another potential avenue is the junior college route or transfers. Nebraska hasn't necessarily recruited a juco players at receiver, but could start to peruse what's available simply from a depth perspective. Expect receiver to continue to be a highly visible priority going forward for the Huskers. **N**

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Young defensive line looks to play consistent



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

There likely won't be many position groups on Nebraska's roster than will feel the heavy weight of expectations more than the Husker defensive line.

Aside from quarterback play, the performance of Nebraska's new-look defensive line under the tutelage of revered former Blackshirt John Parrella will draw its share of attention.

That group struggled a year ago to generate a consistent pass rush, but was stout against the run, finishing among the top run defenses in the country.

The Huskers lost four contributors from the 2015 squad – two of whom were NFL Draft picks.

Parrella inherits a large group of defensive tackles and defensive ends who are low on experience, but high on potential. Perhaps no player embodies that more than redshirt freshman defensive end Alex Davis.

The 6-foot-5, 255-pound Davis is entering just his third season of organized football, but already has made waves with his ability to get after the quarterback. Davis was a basketball star in high school who decided to give football a try before his senior year at Dwyer High School in Florida.

Davis earned defensive line MVP honors at a University of Miami football camp and his natural athleticism helped him get on the radar of college football programs before he chose Nebraska. Davis, who could help Nebraska create pressure in passing situations, has embraced Parrella's motto of "all gas, no brakes."

"Just the way he amps us up and the technique he teaches, it's crazy," Davis said. "Before I just had speed and was working off instinct, now I have moves and stuff I can really do and I'm really thinking about things."

"I've grown a lot. Coach Parrella pushes us everyday, and we push each other and we're starting to learn his tempo and pushing each other. I'm way better from the start of camp to now."

Following a practice at the end of fall camp, Nebraska's staffers closed all the garage doors in the Hawks Championship as

players left the practice field and headed for the locker room.

One door was left cracked leading outside, where Davis and his teammates were toiling on an outdoor practice field in the August heat and humidity. Davis said the young defensive linemen are a close-knit group, which is aiding in their development.

"I feel like our chemistry is just way better," Davis said.

Davis said that group knows it needs to be ready to go early in the season. Seniors Ross Dzuris and Kevin Maurice, as well as sophomore Freedom Akinmoladun have all started games in past seasons, but the depth behind them is unproven.

Davis, as well as Khalil and Carlos Davis (no relation) are expected to be big parts of the game plan this year. Juniors AJ Natter and Sedrick King are looking to contribute as well.

That group will be looking to improve on the 24 sacks Nebraska recorded in 2015. One of the biggest changes since Parrella came aboard has been his emphasis on technique and energy – players say he has been emphasizing the Blackshirt attitude that was a staple of his time at Nebraska in the early 1990s.

In interviews, players say Parrella was patient at the start of fall camp, but turned up the intensity with the start of the season drawing closer.

"Our group has a long way to go," Parrella said. "We're trying to gain against past time here. We're playing catch up. They are fighting, kicking, scratching to get it done. Every day is a challenge to get us ready."

"The biggest thing they have to do is stay consistent. Every day, every play. There's highs and lows and it's enough to drive you crazy but I think we're doing a great job of building depth and I look forward to seeing it come together."

Davis had a strong finish to fall camp, earning praise from Sports Illustrated's Andy Staples who watched a Husker scrimmage. Davis said he's remaining patient.

"I'm going out as hard as I can every day," he said. "I'll let the coaches decide (the depth chart), but I'm going as hard as I can and hopefully it works out for me."

"The biggest thing they have to do is stay consistent. Every day, every play. There's highs and lows and it's enough to drive you crazy but I think we're doing a great job of building depth and I look forward to seeing it come together."

**~ John Parrella
Nebraska Defensive
Line Coach**



FROM WALK-ON TO CAPTAIN

Center Dylan Utter epitomizes Husker spirit

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Mitch Otto

Senior center Dylan Utter is the textbook example of what it means to be a walk-on at Nebraska. After five years of proving his worth Utter was named captain for the 2016 season.

"It's a pretty sweet deal," Utter said. "Everytime we walk out of the locker room there's the shrine of all those guys that were captains and to be one of those guys is pretty special feeling and it's something I have definitely been working for."

Utter arrived in Lincoln as part of the 2012 walk-on recruiting class that included Brandon Reilly, Sam Foltz, Ross Dzuris, Trey Foster, Ryker Fyfe, Andy Janovich and a handful more that will contribute to this season.

Utter didn't see the field until 2014, his redshirt sophomore season. He played in six games including a start at center in the Holiday Bowl against USC. The 2014 season is when Utter came onto the scene because of injuries.

"During a couple of spring balls during early in my career some guys went down and got hurt so I kind of would get thrown into the fire," Utter said. "And I thought I would do fairly well so once you kind of get your confidence up you go from there."

Prior to the start of the 2015 season, Utter was awarded with a scholarship and started all 13 games at left guard. Earning a scholarship didn't mean anything different to Utter than being a walk-on.

"One thing that is good about Nebraska is even though you are a walk-on you're apart of the team," Utter said. "You do everything with the team and stuff like that. Not really seeing yourself as a walk-on but as another guy on the team. It kind of helps us get through. We are not treated any differently and when you number is called we try to step up

and prove ourselves."

This season, Utter made the move to center because of the understanding of the offense. For example, he has helped Sam Hahn along the way as he prepares for his first start as a Husker and at left guard for the first time ever.

"A lot, especially with Dylan [Utter] in there. Dylan knows everything. There's a couple times where he is just like, 'yeah, do this' and I'm like 'OK'," Hahn said.

Head Coach Mike Riley announced captains prior to practice on Aug. 27. Utter said he had to sneak away before team meetings to break the exciting news to the people that have been close to him throughout his five years at Nebraska.

"Coach Riley just read them off there but right before we broke off into our meetings I snuck away," Utter said. "I had to call my mom and tell her just because we have had tons of calls and not all of them have been this. In those first two years, most of those calls were from me about not wanting to play anymore and to see that it's me that's a captain is kind of crazy. And then I got three best friends that helped me along the way so I sent them a text to let them know too."

There being good news coming from his side of the line made his mom break down emotionally when hearing the news. Something Utter said isn't too difficult to do.

"She's a cry baby so that wasn't too hard," Utter said.

Even though some calls weren't always good, he said the 2012 walk-on class motivated him to make his own legacy.

"You never want to be the guy that quit and being surrounded by such a great 2012 walk-on class, I didn't want to be one of the few that didn't make a success story," Utter said. "Those guys doing

great things kind of motivated me along the way because I wanted to be playing and contribute to the team."

Senior quarterback Tommy Armstrong wasn't one of the four captains to be named but said the team couldn't have voted for a better guy to help lead the team.

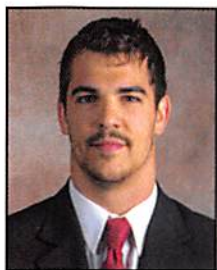
"Utter is just one of those guys that comes in and works his tail off every single day," Armstrong said. "He's a vocal leader on the field as well, and he's done a great job with the offensive line just holding them together and leading them throughout camp and everyone sees it and everyone looks up to Dyl [Dylan]. He's just a crazy, hard-working guy and we love being around him, and he definitely has an awesome vibe to himself and it gets us going. It gets me personally going whenever I'm talking to him, so it is awesome to see him."

Utter will run out of the tunnel for a season opener for the last time in his Husker career. He admitted it's an emotional time but that isn't the focus.

"With something like an emotional day like this, you have to soak it all in," Utter said. "It is the last home opener but our job is to come out of Saturday's game, 1-0, so that is what we are focused on."

Riley is still learning the importance of the walk-on legacy Nebraska has always held. He said in the past two years, he has understood what it means to players like Utter.

"This is proof that dream is alive and well for some of these kids to come here, work hard, and sometimes it takes a long hard path and there's gotta be a lot of perseverance taking place as it goes because they play on scout team for a long time," Riley said. "There's a lot of good stories here to be on the depth chart for Nebraska is a pretty special thing."



10 questions

with Jordan Westerkamp

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Jimmy Rash, Head Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations

Q: Your college career is coming to an end. They're about to boot you out of here. How surreal of a feeling is that for you? Did it go by too fast?

A: "Yeah it's crazy. It goes super fast and people always tell you to not take it for granted ever. Time flies and as a young guy when you first hear that you are like 'yeah whatever'. Now I feel like I am 40 years old and at times it has gone so fast it is crazy."

Q: What sparked your interest in Business Administration and do you have any dreams about what you want to do with that?

A: "My mom owns her own health care company and she works in the managerial position for that. I have just kind of grown up with that. I want to do something in business and it just kind of fell into Business Administration. In the back of my head it has been owning your own business as a dream but football right now is that number one priority."

Q: You have been on the Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll five times and are a two-time Academic All-Big Ten selection during your time here at Nebraska. How important was it for you to be a student first then athlete?

A: "It is huge. It is hard to manage both but it is great to do that and it make my parents pretty happy."

Q: You have done numerous outreach events such as Uplifting Athletes, Husker Hotline, NFL Fuel Up to Play 60 and School is Cool Week. How important is that to you and this team to interact with the community?

A: "We have a great life skills program here and Keith Mann, he does a wonderful job for us. All our football guys are super willing to do outreach events. They love doing them and I love doing them. Whenever we get asked the answer is normally going to be yes."

Q: What is something that the fans don't know about you? Do you play any music or what kind of music would you say is your favorite?

A: "I am a pretty boring guy (with a laugh). But actually I play the piano and the guitar a little bit. That is probably something

that people don't know. I am a huge fan of a lot of different music but typically I am a big fan of 80's rock music."

Q: There are a lot of personalities on the team but everyone likes the guy who can make you laugh. Who would you say is the funniest guy on the team?

A: "The funniest person on the team is probably Jerald Foster. Every time I am around the guy he makes me laugh with what he says, with what he does. He is super animated when he is doing things that he does. He is so funny."

Q: Everyone wants to travel to someplace whether it is in the United States or in a different country. What is somewhere that you have always wanted to go?

A: "It is a place I have already gone but I want to go to Germany. Last time it was a quick trip (sports hernia surgery in the offseason). I want to go back and enjoy a nice week of being there. That would be nice."

Q: The Olympics just wrapped up and I am sure you payed close attention. What sports did you keep an eye on in the Olympics?

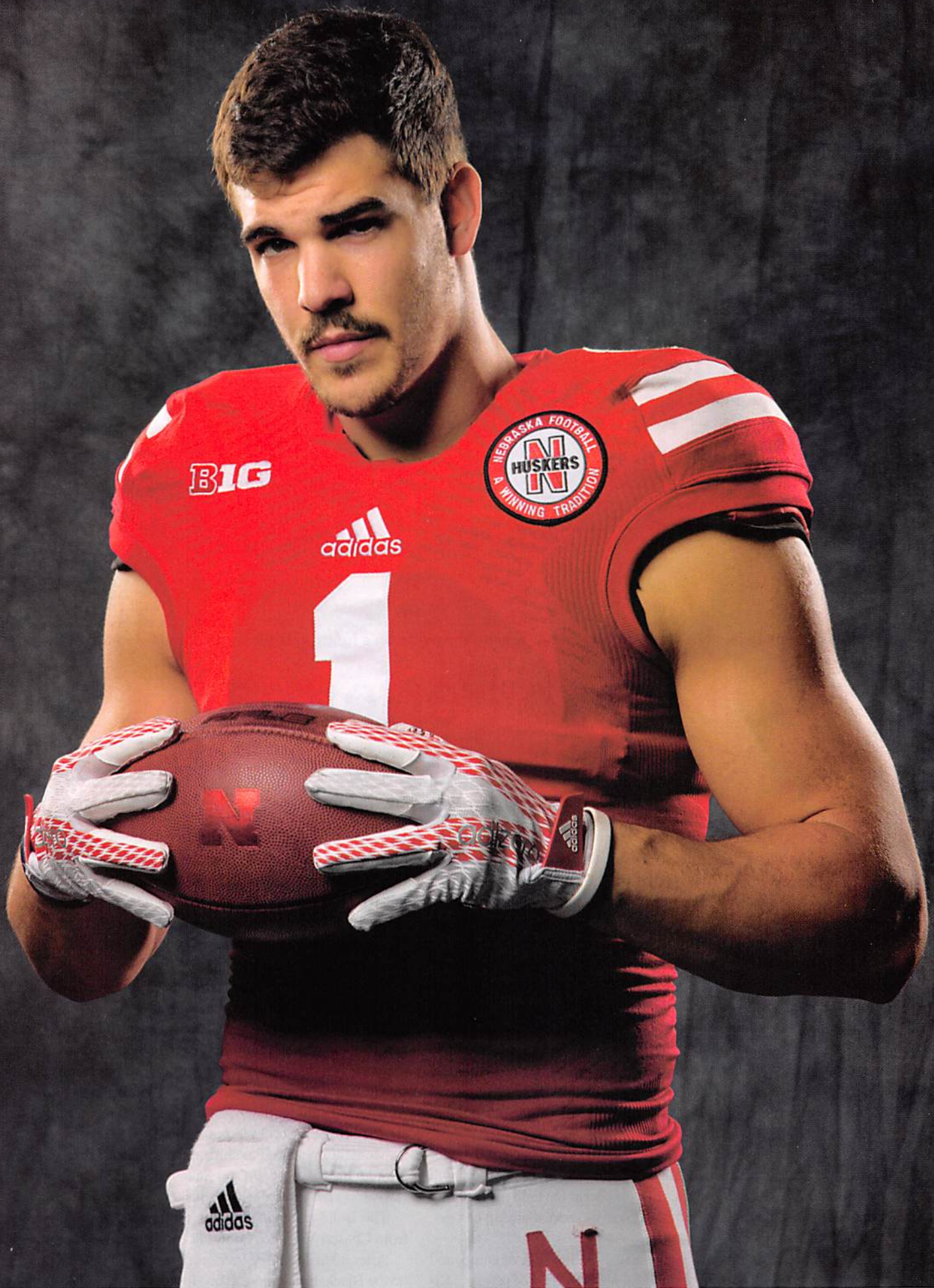
A: "I watched Usain Bolt running, some of the gymnastics and a little bit of basketball...Oh yeah and the swimming. It's crazy. Michael Phelps is an incredible athlete. I literally felt like he won 25 medals and liked stop doing it then thought I might as well go back and win some more. It has been unbelievable seeing what he has been able to do."

Q: You and Ross Dzuris pull off the mustache game pretty well. Do guys ever get in arguments over who has the best mustache on the team?

A: "Yeah it is super competitive. It is a race between me and him to see who's got the better mustache so I try to sabotage him as much as possible. I am just kidding but yeah everytime I see him I tell him 'Hey nice mustache man. It looks pretty sweet.'"

Q: There are also people who wish they could pull off the mustache. Who on the team tries their heart out to have a mustache like you and Ross Dzuris?

A: "Yeah there are a few of them. De'Mornay Pierson-El I would say. He's got a tiny, little one but he is trying."



Nebraska 43, Fresno State 10



Nebraska running back Devine Ozigbo reaches toward the pylon on a fourth-quarter run. He was ruled out of bounds.

Bullish Performance

Huskers stick with rushing attack in 43-10 win

Story by Kevin Houck • Photos by Ken Juszyk & Jimmy Rash

Head coach Mike Riley won his 100th game as a college head coach as the Huskers cruised to a 43-10 victory over Fresno State Saturday night. It took Nebraska (1-0) a half to get going in all three phases of the game but NU found a rhythm in the second half by wearing the Bulldogs out.

The Huskers rushed the ball 51 times for 292 yards while only throwing 10 pass attempts. Sophomore Devine Ozigbo led the way for the Huskers with 103 yards and two touchdowns.

"I didn't really think it was going to be right like that necessarily," Riley said of running the ball 51 out of 64 plays. "We of course want to run the ball, and we think that has got to be a good part of the recipe for what we do all the time. I think that we have to be two things; a little more versatile for the long spell of the season, and when we are versatile, we have to be effective."

Nebraska's offense was non-existent on the first drive going three-and-out to start the game but followed with a moment very few will ever forget. The Huskers only sent 10 players to the field on their first punt paying tribute to Sam Foltz. As good as sportsmanship can get, Fresno State declined the penalty.

"I think that it might have been early on in the start of camp, and then there were a lot of good thoughtful ideas by a lot of people," Ri-

ley said. "I think Shawn [Eichorst] might have been the one to bring this idea to me, and then shortly after, Drew Brown brought it to me, too. So I thought, maybe there's something there with that. I thought that the crowd responded just as I thought they would. A lot of what our team did was not orchestrated, so I'm not necessarily sure how it all got done when they came to greet Caleb [Lightbourn] when they knelt on the sidelines. I'm not sure."

The Bulldogs drove their first possession into the Husker red zone but missed a 32-yard field goal.

The Huskers responded with an 80-yard drive to score the first points of the game. Ozigbo scored from one-yard out to cap the drive that saw Nebraska only attempt one pass pass from Tommy Armstrong Jr. to Stanley Morgan Jr. for 11 yards.

After a Bulldog punt, Ozigbo added his second touchdown on a six-yard run with 12:34 left in the half.

Momentum started to shift in the favor of Fresno State mid-way through the first half. Fresno State blocked Caleb Lightbourn's punt recovering the football at the Huskers 32-yard line.

The Bulldogs capitalized on the miscue with a seven-yard pass from Chason Virgil to Aaron Peck to cut the lead to 14-7.

After a Husker three-and-out, Fresno continued to move the ball on the Blackshirt defense. The Huskers had a chance to end the drive



but due to a targeting call on Luke Gifford on third down, the Bulldogs gained new life. Kicker Kody Kroening made a 26-yard field goal as time expired in the first half to cut the lead to 14-10.

Nebraska regained form coming out of halftime. A nine-yard touchdown run by Armstrong capped off a nine-play, 57-yard drive.

Late in the third quarter, Husker safety Kieron Williams intercepted a pass that went off the Fresno State receiver's hands. This led to 57-yard touchdown pass to Alonzo Moore from Armstrong two plays later. Holder Zack Darlington added the two-point conversion to extend the lead to 36-10.

Armstrong finished 5 of 10 for 106 yards through the air.

"They started blitzing us a lot more than we thought they would," Armstrong said. "We adapted to it late, came in at half-time and made some adjustments, and went out there and started off right on the kickoff... We opened up a lot to the receivers and when we get a chance to throw we just gotta make sure we complete them."

True freshman Tre Bryant added a three-yard touchdown with 4:20 left in the fourth quarter bring the final score to 43-10 Nebraska. Cornerback Chris Jones intercepted the Bulldogs in the end zone with 47 seconds left to end the game.

"Those were good stats," Riley said. "We got it going. Don't get me wrong, we are happy to win. We did some good things, we rushed for close to 300 yards, that is good to do. And we didn't turn the ball over, so that is a big leap from a year ago. I don't think it was their longest game on their offense. They had their one pass near the end that was probably their biggest gain. So we limited big plays a little better than we did for sure a year ago against most teams and we didn't turn the ball over. Those were two things that we wanted to get done."



Top: Luke McNitt recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff of the second half to give NU the momentum right away. **Above:** Chris Jones makes an interception in the endzone late in the fourth quarter.



Nebraska freshman running back Tre Bryant runs tough for the Huskers during his first game action.

Huskers stick with game plan to run ball

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN

If Nebraska's season-opening 43-10 victory over Fresno State is any indication, the Cornhuskers' commitment to establishing a strong ground attack might last beyond last season's bowl game.

After rushing 62 times for 326 yards last December during a 37-29 victory over UCLA in the Foster Farms Bowl, Nebraska relied on its run game again against the Bulldogs.

This time, offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf's unit dialed up runs on 51 of 64 offensive snaps, gaining 292 net yards (5.7 yards per carry).

"It's always the plan, but I don't think it's always going to be that easy," Langsdorf said. "We got going early, which was great, and it always makes it easier when you get in a rhythm and are getting first downs."

"If we can establish that early, it just opens up other things."

After being forced to punt on its first possession, Nebraska scored on back-to-

back drives, relying heavily on its running game. In fact, the Huskers kept it on the ground on 19 of their first 20 plays from scrimmage and ran on 23 of 26 plays during their first three scoring drives.

Clearly, that's a different philosophy from last season when Nebraska didn't log 40 rushing attempts in a game during a 5-7 regular season.

Devine Ozigbo led the Huskers against Fresno State, rushing 17 times for 103 yards and two touchdowns. The 6-foot, 230-pound sophomore had a long run of 17 yards and averaged 6.1 yards per carry.

"It felt good ... 17 carries is nice — I like it," Ozigbo said. "Terrell had some good runs, so as long as we're moving the ball on the ground, if I'm getting my carries, I'll just do whatever I can with those."

Starting I-back Terrell Newby carried 11 times for 56 yards, while quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. rushed 11 times for 42 yards and two more scores.

Langsdorf said he's happy to share the load among his running backs.

"We are in a rotation and will play with the hot hand when we get one," Langsdorf said of his running backs, noting that Mikale Wilbon could also land in the rotation. True freshman Tre Bryant added five carries for 36 yards on the Huskers' final scoring drive.

Fresno State coach Tim DeRuyter said Nebraska's running game eventually took its toll.

"The bottom line was, they were able to run the football against us, particularly late," DeRuyter said. "I thought we picked things up after the first quarter pretty well. The flood gates opened and we got a little bit discouraged in the fourth quarter."

Langsdorf, who called plays from the pressbox for the first time since coming to Nebraska, said his initial impression of the offensive line's play against the Bulldogs was positive.

"I thought we were very physical up front, we got a good push," Langsdorf said. "I don't think we had a ton of assignment errors. They set the tone early for us and got us started off well."



Kieron Williams (26) makes one of his team-high 10 tackles against Fresno State on Saturday night.

Kieron Williams makes career-high 10 tackles

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN

Not among the 13 Nebraska defenders who received Blackshirts earlier in the week, safety Kieron Williams made his case for that to change during the Cornhuskers' 43-10 victory over Fresno State.

Williams led the Huskers with a career-high 10 total tackles, including six solo stops in the season-opening win against the Bulldogs. The 6-foot-1, 195-pound junior from Shreveport, Louisiana, also recorded his first career interception as Nebraska shut out the Bulldogs in three of four quarters under the direction of defensive coordinator Mark Banker.

"I feel like God has blessed me so much to even be here to play, so I think Coach Banker put us in the right situation and the right spot to be able to make plays," Williams said. "I just feel like we came out thinking we could win and that's what matters."

While Fresno State was able to pass for 243 yards, the Huskers were stingy

against the run.

The Bulldogs managed just 31 net yards on 26 carries and "abandoned" the ground game, Banker said.

"With (Fresno State) having a whole new coaching staff we didn't really have film, so that played a part in it, but like I said, Coach Banker had us prepared pretty well, and I think it was just first-game jitters," Williams said. "After we got over that, I think we played well."

Williams and fellow safety Aaron Williams played larger roles than usual in Nebraska's defense due to the absence of Nate Gerry. The Huskers' senior starting safety was serving a one-game suspension for violating team rules.

"Without being able to watch the film, I know early on there were a couple of things that didn't go well," Banker said. "(Kieron) was out of position on a couple of things, but I thought between he and Aaron Williams — playing the whole game (against) a tempo offense and not having Nate — chemistry-wise, we did a pretty good job this week."

"By and large, I'd say when we watch film we'll see that he was in the right place most of the time when he needed to be."

Kieron Williams intercepted Fresno State quarterback Chason Virgil at the Nebraska 30-yard line with 47 seconds remaining in the third quarter. He returned the pick 8 yards before sprinting to the sideline to celebrate with his teammates.

"It's funny because my mom wasn't here tonight, and in high school when I had my first interception, she wasn't there, either, so maybe she shouldn't come to my games," Williams joked. "It's just a blessing to be able to play and make good plays."

Williams was clearly enjoying the spotlight in front of a crowd of 90,013 at Memorial Stadium.

"That's why we practice," Williams said. "So when we do get on that stage, we are always prepared for it."

"Like I said, our coaching staff prepares us very well and it showed tonight, allowing us to have a great game."

Nebraska 43, Fresno State 10

Sept. 3, 2016 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln

Attendance: 90,013

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Fresno State	0	10	0	0	10
Nebraska	7	7	7	22	43

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	00:43	NEB - Ozigbo, Devine 1 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 13-80 6:25	0 - 7
2nd	12:34	NEB - Ozigbo, Devine 6 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 4-38 1:27	0 - 14
	05:38	FS - PECK, Aaron 7 yd pass from VIRGIL, Chason (KROENING, Kody kick), 7-32 2:37	7 - 14
	00:00	FS - KROENING, Kody 26 yd field goal, 10-68 3:39	10 - 14
3rd	09:59	NEB - Armstrong Jr. 9 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 9-57 4:03	10 - 21
4th	14:51	NEB - Moore, Alonzo 57 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 2-62 0:56	10 - 28
	09:50	NEB - Armstrong Jr. 4 yd run (Darlington, Z. rush), 8-63 4:17	10 - 36
	04:20	NEB - Bryant, Tre 3 yd run (Lindsay, S. kick), 10-67 4:03	10 - 43



Alonzo Moore celebrates his 57-yard touchdown catch from Tommy Armstrong Jr.



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Captains Jordan Westerkamp and Dylan Utter and Sam Foltz honorary captain Alonzo Moore gather for a hug before the game.



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Devine Ozigbo powers through two Fresno State tacklers.

Team Statistics

	FS	NEB
FIRST DOWNS	17	20
Rushing	2	15
Passing	12	4
Penalty	3	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	31	292
Rushing Attempts	26	51
Average Per Rush	1.2	5.7
Rushing Touchdowns	0	5
Yards Gained Rushing	59	301
Yards Lost Rushing	28	9
NET YARDS PASSING	243	114
Completions-Attempts-Int	24-43-2	6-13-0
Average Per Attempt	5.7	8.8
Average Per Completion	10.1	19.0
Passing Touchdowns	1	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	274	406
Total offense plays	69	64
Average Gain Per Play	4.0	6.3
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	6-29	7-80
PUNTS-YARDS	6-210	5-145
Average Yards Per Punt	35.0	29.0
Net Yards Per Punt	31.7	25.6
Inside 20	1	0
50+ Yards	0	0
Touchbacks	1	0
Fair catch	1	2
KICKOFFS-YARDS	2-130	7-444
Average Yards Per Kickoff	65.0	63.4
Net Yards Per Kickoff	36.5	41.7
Touchbacks	1	2
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-17-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	8.5	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	5-102-0	1-32-0
Average Per Return	20.4	32.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	2-8-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	28:07	31:53
1st Quarter	6:28	8:32
2nd Quarter	9:16	5:44
3rd Quarter	6:39	8:21
4th Quarter	5:44	9:16
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 14	5 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-4	5-5
Touchdowns	1-4	5-5
Field goals	1-4	0-5
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	4-21
PAT Kicks	1-1	5-5
Field Goals	1-2	0-0
Points off turnovers	0	7



Above: Quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. gives some love to offensive linemen Tanner Farmer, Dylan Utter and David Knevel. Left: Caleb Lightbourn gets off a punter in his first start of his career.

Individual Statistics

Fresno State

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
JAMES, Dontel	12	22	2	20	0	5	1.7
KLINE, Zach	1	11	0	11	0	11	11.0
GREEN, Treyvon	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
JORDAN, Jamire	1	1	0	1	0	1	1.0
O'NEAL, DeJonte	4	3	3	0	0	3	0.0
JOHNSON, K.	1	0	1	-1	0	0	-1.0
VIRGIL, Chason	6	19	22	-3	0	19	-0.5
Totals	26	59	28	31	0	19	1.2

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
VIRGIL, Chason	17-32-1	133	1	12	4
KLINE, Zach	7-11-1	110	0	32	0
Totals	24-43-2	243	1	32	4

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
PECK, Aaron	9	112	1	32
JOHNSON, K.	8	61	0	18
JORDAN, Jamire	5	52	0	16
OLSEN, Chad	2	18	0	10
Totals	24	243	1	32

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
CUSICK, Blake	6	210	35.0	48	1	1
Totals	6	210	35.0	48	1	1

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
STANLEY, Robert	1	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
GLASS, Tyquan	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
HARDWAY, D.	0	0	0	1	13	13	0	0	0
POTTS, DeShawn	0	0	0	2	46	32	0	0	0
JOHNSON, K.	0	0	0	2	43	23	0	0	0
Totals	2	17	15	5	102	32	0	0	0

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
KROENING, Kody	1st	07:08	32 yards	Missed
KROENING, Kody	2nd	00:00	26 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
CAMACHO, Jimmy	2	130	65.0	1	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
PECK, Aaron	0	112	0	0	0	112
JOHNSON, K.	-1	61	43	0	0	103
JORDAN, Jamire	1	52	0	0	0	53
POTTS, DeShawn	0	0	46	0	0	46

Nebraska

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Ozigbo, Devine	17	103	0	103	2	17	6.1
Newby, Terrell	11	56	0	56	0	12	5.1
Armstrong Jr.	11	42	0	42	2	9	3.8
Bryant, Tre	5	36	0	36	1	13	7.2
Moore, Alonzo	2	34	0	34	0	24	17.0
Wilbon, Mikale	1	16	0	16	0	16	16.0
Westerkamp, J.	1	9	0	9	0	9	9.0
Fyfe, Ryker	1	5	0	5	0	5	5.0
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
Pierson-El, D.	1	0	7	-7	0	0	-7.0
Totals	51	301	9	292	5	24	5.7

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Armstrong Jr.	5-10-0	108	1	57	0
Fyfe, Ryker	1-3-0	6	0	6	0
Totals	6-13-0	114	1	57	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Moore, Alonzo	3	92	1	57
Morgan Jr., S.	1	11	0	11
Westerkamp, J.	1	6	0	6
Ozigbo, Devine	1	5	0	5
Totals	6	114	1	57

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Lightbourn, C.	4	145	36.2	43	0	0
TEAM	1	0	0.0	0	0	0
Totals	5	145	29.0	43	0	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Jones, Chris	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Williams, K.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	8
Bryant, Tre	0	0	0	1	32	32	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	1	32	32	2	8	8

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
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Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Lindsay, S.	1	65	65.0	1	0
Brown, Drew	6	379	63.2	1	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Moore, Alonzo	34	92	0	0	0	126
Ozigbo, Devine	103	5	0	0	0	108
Bryant, Tre	36	0	32	0	0	68
Newby, Terrell	56	0	0	0	0	56



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Above: Damon Benning interviews Mike Riley. Left: Ross Dzuris makes a tackle against the Bulldogs.

Defensive Statistics

#	Fresno State	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
42	CAMILLI, Jeff	3	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	SOECHTING, T.	3	4	7	-	1-7	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	HUGHES, Brandon	2	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	BROWN, Stratton	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	POTTS, DeShawn	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
91	MADSEN, Nathan	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	STANLEY, Robert	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
25	GLASS, Tyquan	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	ELLIS, Jamal	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
97	FORRESTER, M.	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	ALLISON, J.	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	JONES, Dalen	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
99	KRISTOFORS, N.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	KELLY, Tank	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
38	BRYANT, Jaron	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	PECK, Aaron	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	VAIMILI, Austin	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	OKEKE, Tobenna	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	BAILEY, James	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	BELL, Mike	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	WRIGHT, Alan	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
94	BELONY, Patrick	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		29	42	71	0.0-0	1-7	0	0-0	0-0	2	1	0

#	Nebraska	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
26	Williams, K.	6	4	10	-	1-0	-	-	1-8	-	-	-
10	Kalu, Joshua	6	1	7	1.0-6	1-6	-	-	-	1	-	2
5	Young II, D.	5	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1B	Jackson, Lamar	5	1	6	1.0-11	2-14	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Williams, Aaron	3	2	5	-	1-1	-	-	-	1	-	-
88	Dzuris, Ross	3	1	4	2.0-4	3-6	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Newby, Marcus	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
49	Weber, Chris	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	McNitt, Luke	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
52	Banderas, Josh	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	Stoltenberg, M.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	Maurice, Kevin	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Domann, JoJo	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	Natter, A.J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Nabity, Graham	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
73	Hahn, Sam	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8A	Jones, Chris	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	1-0	1	-	-
39	Nelson, Jordan	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2A	Davis, Alex	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
91	Akinmoladun, F.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1F	King, Sedrick	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
94	Davis, Khalil	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
96	Davis, Carlos	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1A	Rose-Ivey, M.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Barry, Mohamed	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		39	26	65	4.0-21	8-27	0	0-0	2-8	3	0	5

RUSHING OFFENSE: Nebraska rolled up nearly 300 yards running the ball against Fresno State. Normally that's going to get the highest marks possible, but if we can nitpick just a little bit, Nebraska didn't have a single rush for more than 20 yards. Eventually Nebraska will need to hit those bigger plays, however, the Huskers managed to take control of the game early on and really dictate the tempo. First half rushes netted more yards in the second half as the Huskers squeezed the clock down and forced Fresno to continually come downhill. On Saturday, Nebraska averaged 5.7 yards per carry and rolled up five touchdowns on the ground in the win. Equally as impressive is the fact the only negative yards for the entire game came on a quarterback kneel and a failed jet sweep. Last year Nebraska couldn't stop going backwards, this time Nebraska remained on schedule. — *Michael Schaefer*

A

PASSING OFFENSE: Not a lot to breakdown and not a whole lot to get excited about here. The Huskers threw 13 times. On those throws, most were plays designed to catch the defense that had been lulled to sleep by the run game. Nebraska connected on one big play — a deep post to Alonzo Moore that went for exactly half of the team's passing yards. The 57-yard touchdown was ultimately the nail in the coffin for Fresno State. Tommy Armstrong will need to be more accurate against better teams and at times the Huskers will need to rely on him more as a passer. However, for now, getting through a game with no turnovers and keeping the Huskers on schedule is a big win for the senior. — *Michael Schaefer*

D+

RUSHING DEFENSE: Fresno State came into the contest with a young offensive line and didn't seem particularly interested in testing Nebraska's run defense. The Bulldogs carried the ball 26 times for 31 total yards, and the longest running play of the game came on a scramble by quarterback Chason Virgil. The run defense was a strength for Nebraska's defense a year ago, and the starting four up front of Freedom Akinmoladun, Mick Stoltenberg, Kevin Maurice and Ross Dzuris did a nice job of muddying things up along the line and allowing Nebraska's back seven to clean up plays. — *Michael Bruntz*

A

PASSING DEFENSE: The day probably felt worse than it was in actuality for Nebraska's pass defense. The Huskers limited Chason Virgil to 17-of-32 passing for 133 yards and one touchdown. Backup Zach Kline had better luck against the Huskers, finishing 7-for-11 for 110 yards and one touchdown. Fresno State never really did challenge Nebraska's pass defense deep, choosing instead to nickel and dime the Huskers with short passes. The Husker defense managed two interceptions and sacked Virgil four times in the win. — *Michael Bruntz*

B-

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: The Huskers had a poignant moment on the first punt of the game, sending 10 men out for the punt formation to honor Sam Foltz. As for the actual play on the field, it was a bit of a mixed bag. The Husker coverage units were better, but Nebraska got a punt blocked in the first half and the Huskers had difficulty fielding punts with consistency. Mike Riley seemed most concerned after the game with the issues on special teams. Those will need to be cleaned up heading into next week against Wyoming. — *Michael Bruntz*

D

HONORING FOLTZ

More than 90,000 came to silence as the Huskers ran out only 10 players on their first punt, intentionally not putting in a punter. The crowd and players from both teams slowly began cheering louder and louder as the play clock ticked down to zero. Nebraska was called for a delay of game penalty, which Fresno State declined.

"I talked to coach Riley about that," Fresno State Head Coach Tim DeRuyter said. "The officials first told me in our officials meeting before and then I talked to Mike before. No hesitation. It is tragic. I was talking with our coaches, and I can't imagine losing a son. And if we can't teach our guys to not do something classy like that then what is college for? I said we were going to decline the penalty. We were going to do that."

Many players' reactions to the tribute were on the fly in the moment. Nebraska kicker Drew Brown said he just lived in the moment.

"I don't even remember what I did. I was just, I was kneeling on the sideline," Brown said. "I guess I put my arms up. But it's gonna be something that I didn't want to plan, I just wanted to let this whole night just kind of develop itself and not have anything staged. You know it was a special thing, it was special seeing the entire crowd get up and cheer and give their wild applause. And especially Fresno State, I have a lot of respect for those guys because they were clapping and they were pumping up the crowd too. It was something special and I'm never going to forget it."

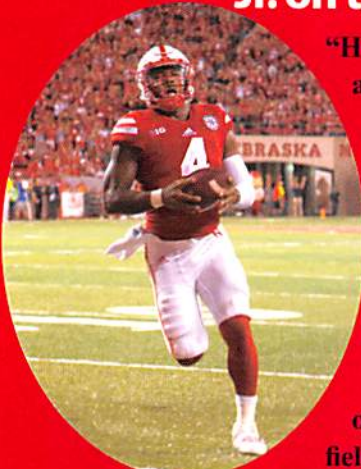
That was one of the many ways the Huskers honored Foltz Saturday. Brown and place kicker Spencer Lindsay carried Foltz's jersey out of the tunnel and draped the jersey on the bench where it will be every game.

"It was special because the kickers, the punters and the snappers are always the first ones on the field for warm up, and me and Spencer (Lindsay) carried Sam's jersey," Brown said. "It was a cool thing because he was always one of the first guys out on the field with us and we just felt it was right to carry his jersey. They set up his locker with his pads and shoes and everything, me and Spencer just felt that his jersey should be out there with us just like he was watching over our head. It was a cool thing because everyone got to see it and everyone got to remember him."

Brown was also a recipient of the first Sam Foltz Memorial Scholarship. Foltz's parents gave away the award to Brown before kickoff.

"I don't even think I could put it into words," Brown said. "Sam was a guy I would do anything to model myself after. Being awarded something that's in his name means more than the world to me. He was my best friend. I'm never going to forget this night, I'm never going to forget that ceremony, never going to forget the crowd, standing up and cheering for Sam. Just having that award — it's so many other guys deserving on the team and knowing that I was the one that was picked, it's pretty special to me."

Quoting NU quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. on the Sam Foltz punt tribute:



"Honestly, it didn't really hit me until I actually looked out there and saw the support from the fans, how much impact was on the fans and things like that. It was an incredible feeling to know how much he meant to not only the team but the community and all of the fans that were out there so that was emotional for myself because every game he always talked to me and said 'keep me off the field, the only time I want to be out there is scoring field goals' and things like."



Dann and Sheri Leffler of West Point with their grandsons, Creighton and Preston Johnson of Eagle, stop and look at the Sam Foltz memorial on the northwest corner of Memorial Stadium before the Fresno State game.

LIGHTBOURN SETTLES IN

Freshman punter Caleb Lightbourn found himself in an even tougher spot than most freshman. Starting his first collegiate game, Lightbourn first punt was as emotional as it could get with the tribute to Sam Foltz.

"It was really intense," Lightbourn said. "It's one of those moments where you can't prepare for anything. It something that happens and you remember it for the rest of your life. I almost came to tears going onto the field because it was such a special moment."

Initially, special teams coordinator Bruce Read thought that moment might be too emotional for Lightbourn.

"That was the first thing when we talked about it," Read said. "I was like, 'this is going to be Caleb's first punt after we take a penalty and then he has got to go punt and perform.'"

Lightbourn's first two punts were two he would like to get back but he settled in as the

game went on. His first punt was for only 29 yards and his second was blocked. Read said he rebounded well, especially with the weather.

"For a young guy that was windy out there and gusty in his first game out," Read said. "I mean, he held his own and I'm proud of him. We're always going to strive for more and better but he did a nice job tonight."

TOO MANY MENTAL MISTAKES

Nebraska accomplished two things it wanted to improve as the Huskers rushed for 292 yards and didn't turn the ball over. Yet Riley still was bothered during his postgame press conference.

"Games get pretty cloudy for me when you get a punt blocked and when you have a procedure penalty that takes away a first down. When you get a big penalty when you're going to get a team off the field, you get a targeting foul that gives them new life. So I have really mixed emotions about this game. There's lots of stuff

that has to change. Sometimes you feel like you can't make a good play without a celebration penalty, which is silly to me."

Mental mistakes such as penalties and lining up correctly are things NU can't have.

"I think it's all frustrating," Riley said. "I think that we have to be better than that. I thought we'd take a step forward with penalties and it didn't feel like it. I thought we'd take a step forward without lining up illegally. Getting the punt blocked is just horrible. Fielding punts, guys running into each other is just sloppy. It just doesn't feel real good."

Offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf agreed with Riley's assessment.

"I thought our operation was awful," Langsdorf said. "We burned two timeouts on illegal formations. We had some guys come out of the huddle the wrong way not sure where they're lining up. Just silly stuff that had not shown up in our fall camp and in previous scrimmages."

Nebraska 43, Fresno State 10



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Clockwise from above: Alonzo Moore scores on a 57-yard touchdown catch. Offensive lineman Sam Hahn points up at the sky during a tribute to Sam Foltz in the first quarter. Luke Gifford gets called for targeting on this hit in the first quarter and was ejected. Linebacker Dedrick Young crushes a Fresno State player. Luke McNitt celebrates a fumble recovery. Drew Brown holds hands with Max Foltz during the Tunnel Walk.



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



REGGIE RYDER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED





JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

2MinuteDrill



**THIRTEEN AWARDED
BLACKSHIRTS**

JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Compiled by Kevin Houck

The Husker defensive staff handed out 13 Blackshirts before practice last Tuesday. Four defensive linemen, four defensive backs and five linebackers received the honor to wear the coveted black practice jerseys.

On the defensive line, Kevin Maurice, Mick Stoltenberg, Ross Dzuris and Freedom Akinmoladun received the jerseys.

At linebacker, Marcus Newby, Chris Weber, Josh Banderas, Michael Rose-Ivey and Dedrick Young received Blackshirts.

In the secondary, Chris Jones, Nate Gerry, Aaron Williams and Josh Kalu received the honor.

Defensive coordinator Mark Banker said the decision was easier this season than last year.

"There was such a concern the last time around, really from veteran players, former players, as to what was going to be done," Banker said.

"Having no idea about the recent past and what wasn't maybe done with the Blackshirts. I mean, it seemed like an arduous task. Giving out Blackshirts this time around was fun."

What made the decision easier this time around was the addition of defensive line coach John Parrella, who was a Blackshirt.

"I thought I knew what it meant coming in just being a kid from here," defensive tackle Mick Stoltenberg said. "I definitely have a further understanding of what it means after hearing his philosophy, his take on it."

One of the bigger surprises on who didn't receive a Blackshirt was junior safety Kieron Williams. Williams is set to make in first start in the secondary on Saturday against Fresno State.

"He's done a tremendous job. I think we've talked about Kieron along the way here in camp. Just his maturity and the way he expresses himself, that has translated to the field as well. So let's do it in front of the nation."

Banker went on to say there are about five players on the fence from earning a Blackshirt but it's the total body of work.

"Overall, it's something that people work for, not only off the field, in the weight room, in practice, the way they carry themselves, the leadership and all that stuff," Banker said.

"I think Kieron along with about four other guys are right there from a standpoint of becoming Blackshirts."

HI'S TOP 5

WEEK ONE NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

1 LIGHTBOURN JOINS ELITE BUT SMALL COMPANY

With Caleb Lightbourn taking the field against Fresno State for his first start at punter, he joined a group that not many freshmen have done at Nebraska since freshman regained eligibility in 1973. He will join five other Husker freshman since 1973 to start a season opener. That company includes Ralph Brown (1996), Terrence Nunn (2004), Tyler Moore (2011), Aaron Williams (2015) and Dedrick Young (2015). In the past two seasons, three freshmen have accounted for half of that company.

2 ARMSTRONG JR. HAS NEW RECORDS IN SITE

Even though the passing game is relatively new in the Huskers' history, quarterback Tommy Armstrong has a chance to rewrite four Husker quarterback records this season. Armstrong has set an NCAA record and more than a dozen Nebraska records as the Nebraska quarterback the past three seasons. This year he has a chance to break at least four more Husker records and all are currently held by Taylor Martinez. Armstrong has 55 career touchdown passes which is one behind Martinez as the most in school history. On Saturday, Armstrong Jr. became the second player in school history to surpass 8,000 career total offense yards, joining Martinez. Armstrong now has 8,148 yards of total offense in his career, second at Nebraska behind Martinez's 10,233 career total offensive yards. Armstrong accounted for 150 yards of total offense versus Fresno State, including 108 passing yards and 42 rushing yards. Armstrong accounted for three touchdowns (2 rushing, 1 passing) against the Bulldogs. Martinez leads Armstrong by 351 for career passing yards at 7,258 yards. As for career pass completions, Armstrong needs 92 competitions to pass Martinez at 575.

3 MIKE RILEY HITS CENTURY MARK

With the win over Fresno State on Saturday night, Head Coach Mike Riley won his 100th career game as a college head coach. He is in his 16th season as a college head coach and with those 99 victories, they were all at Power Five Schools. Riley won 93 of those games at Oregon State, making him the winningest coach in program history. He is the 10th most active winningest coach out of the Power Five schools.

4 DOMINATING THE MOUNTAIN WEST

Nebraska has won 30-consecutive games against the current members of the Mountain West Conference after its victory over Fresno State, which makes them 35-2 all-time against Mountain West members. Their last two wins against the Mountain West have been against Fresno State. Nebraska will try to make it 31 consecutive games with Wyoming coming into town week 2.

5 18-STRAIGHT WINS UNDER THE LIGHTS AT HOME

Nebraska now rides an 18-game win-streak playing at home in night games. They are 44-5 all-time in night games at home. Their five losses have come from teams that have won more than 10 games in that season, which is impressive. Nebraska's next home night game will be Nov. 12 against Minnesota.

LANGSDORF, CAVANAUGH MOVE TO PRESS BOX

The Husker offensive coaching staff is switching things up this season. Last season, offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf and offensive line coach Mike Cavanaugh were on the sidelines during the games but this year both are making the move upstairs to the press box.

With everybody being so new they wanted face-to-face communication last season but now, a year in, they feel comfortable to move upstairs.

"He and Danny have spent a year together in the box and they like that," head coach Mike Riley said. "I think that being new last year was a good thing for everybody for them to be available on the sidelines. I called plays for years and years on the sidelines and it's not that easy. It's nicer to have everything kind of laid out. I think that this will be a good move for us, and then we'll have the right people who can communicate with the players on the field."

Langsdorf said communication between the two is easier when he is in a quieter setting.

"I think one of our best years, Cav and I were together upstairs (at Oregon State)," Langsdorf said. "We were able to talk through protections and runs in a bit quieter setting, with less distractions. So we have talked about it in fall camp and we looked at it in a couple scrimmages."

Senior quarterback Tommy Armstrong said he is in favor of the move but admitted he will miss having Langsdorf on the sideline.

"I am, honestly, but I was looking forward to that celebration," Armstrong said. "We always used to have times where we'd celebrate a little bit, he gets excited about that. But it's good to have him up there."

"Last year, it was kind of easier to communicate with us just by seeing us face-to-face, but I think that this year's going to help us a lot more. I think it goes a lot with trust in the quarterbacks and just trust in the team, that he's able to go up there now."

"And I think that it'd help us a lot by seeing the bigger picture from up top, with him being up there and just being able to tell us what we need to fix, tell us



Nebraska coaches on the sidelines celebrate a touchdown against Fresno State.

what he's seeing and making sure other GA's are doing a great job of putting us in the right situation... He's kind of put it on us to grab the headset and tell them what we see before he actually tells us what he sees from up top, so it kind of helped us this offseason."

Being on the sideline or up in the press box both have their perks but seeing the field from a higher view could help the Huskers limit offensive struggles.

"There's good and bad in being both up and down but you have to sort through that," Langsdorf said. "It's a great bird's-eye view. With Cav, we can really hammer out problems that we're having and ways to fix it. It's something we have done in the past so we are, kind of, going back to that."

As to who will run the offensive huddle from the sideline? The role was wide receivers coach Keith Williams but with his four game suspension, every coach on the sideline will play a part in the huddle.

"Reggie (Davis) will take a big part of that role that Keith (Williams) had and he will be assisted by Hardie (Buck) and James Rodgers, and of course offensively

on the sideline, we will have myself and Tavita Thompson." Riley said. "He will be the guy to communicate information from Cav to the line. Hardy, myself and James Rodgers will be working with the receiving core so I think we'll be able to cover all the bases that way."

There didn't need to be too much improvised communication early on against Fresno State as Nebraska rushed the ball on 20 of its first 21 offensive plays, including 15 of 16 first-quarter snaps.

FERGUSON TO REDSHIRT

Head coach Mike Riley announced Thursday that sophomore linebacker Tyrin Ferguson would redshirt the 2016 season.

Ferguson came to the staff about the move. Ferguson played in 10 games, mostly on special team last season, and was behind senior Josh Banderas and junior Chris Weber at the middle linebacker position. He felt it would be best to save a year of eligibility with the move.

"Tyrin approached us about redshirting because of Josh Banderas and Chris Weber, and he's absolutely right," Riley said. "So at this point Tyrin will be red-

Hometown Huskers

Tri County's Sam Hahn makes start against Fresno State

Story by Kevin Houck • Photo by Jimmy Rash

THE WALK-ON PROGRAM at Nebraska is one of the most storied traditions in all of college football. Nebraska high school players have long dreamed about stepping onto the field at Memorial Stadium, whether as a walk-on or on scholarship.

For senior offensive lineman Sam Hahn that hope was fully alive, even if he had to take an unusual route to make that dream a reality.

Hahn played high school football at Tri-County High School where he was a four-year starter on the line and earned first-team Class C-2 honors as a senior. During his high school career his dream was always to one day walk out of the tunnel on game day as a Husker football player.

"That was my goal my entire childhood and high school career. I wanted to play here," Hahn said. "It didn't really matter how I had to do it, it's what I wanted to do."

The ordeal became tricky during his senior season at Tri-County. Nebraska's preferred walk-on spot for Hahn vanished so instead Hahn accepted a partial scholarship to play football at North Dakota State.

"I was recruited I guess as a preferred walk-on (at Nebraska), and then it didn't end up working out just for one reason or the other. And then I was like 'Oh, I just kind of took that offer and ran with it,'" Hahn said about his decision to go to NDSU.

Hahn enrolled at NDSU but didn't see playing time his freshman season. The thought of playing for his state still daunted him. He decided to finish out the season but knew his stay in Fargo, N.D. wouldn't last long.

"Obviously North Dakota State is a great program," Hahn said. "That kind of speaks for itself. The people are great up there, but I missed home and I wanted to play for Nebraska. And now I can go home when I have the availability to and help farm and stuff like that."

Maybe more than playing for the Huskers, being away from his family hurt the most. Hahn is a family-oriented person and felt like he still needed to pull his weight on the farm in Dewitt.

"It tore me up pretty good the first semester at North Dakota State, when I irrigated all summer and put the work into the crop and I didn't get to see any or reap any of the benefits of it," Hahn said. "I'm a pretty home-based, family-based guy and I just wanted to be here like I said. You guys know how special this place is and what it mean to some of us that grew up here."

Hahn transferred out of North Dakota State and was offered a walk-on position at Nebraska. He redshirted in 2013 and didn't see any game action in 2014. Last year, as the new coaching staff came into the program he saw action in three games, mostly on special team units.

This season until two weeks ago, Hahn said he expected the same as last year but more of a role on special teams.

"Field goal, punt and be ready at tackle if something goes wrong with the first two," Hahn said.

During fall camp, the injury bug hit the left guard position and his fate quickly changed in the matter of hours. Jerald Foster tore his MCL and backup Corey Whitaker injured his knee all in a series of plays. Whitaker had arthroscopic knee surgery and would be out for



at least two weeks pushing his timetable all the way up to the season opener with Fresno State.

"The day after that Coach Cavanaugh asked 'do you want to play some guard?' and I said 'that's fine'.

Hahn moved to right guard from tackle for the next two practices then started taking reps at left guard.

"I have consistently told him I'll do whatever the team needs," Hahn said. "It's about the team and not about me."

Right before the end of fall camp with only two weeks to adjust to the guard position, Head Coach Mike Riley named Hahn the starting left guard for the season opener against Fresno State.

"He's one of the most respected guys around, always working, obviously impressive physically and always reliable come practice time," Riley said. "This was a guy that was also playing tackle for us since the injury to Jerald (Foster). He's an offensive lineman and so we've been interchangeable with positions, you have seen that with Dylan Utter."

Utter, a former walk-on, will be lining up next to Hahn at center. He is another player that is versatile to move along the line. Utter started at guard last season and moved to center in the spring. Utter said there is no one more deserving of this opportunity.

"He wasn't with me my first year but ever since he has transferred here it has always been me and him in the film room and stuff like that," Utter said. "Just kind of pushing each other and reminding us to stay the course. Sam went through a lot over the summer with Foltzy (Sam Foltz) passing so to see great things happen to a great person like him to get that start is special."

The road Hahn has took has been a long, winding journey but this opportunity is what made it worth the journey for Hahn. He won a National Championship at North Dakota State and will try to earn another in his last year of college football.

"Oh yeah. I got it when I was up there," Hahn said. "I mean I wore it a couple times but I haven't worn it that much. I have the watch and the little mini trophy, and everything, too."



2016 HUSKER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Sat, Sep 03	Fresno State	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 10	Wyoming	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 17	Oregon	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 24	Northwestern *	at Evanston, Ill.	-
Sat, Oct 01	Illinois *	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 15	Indiana *	at Bloomington, Ind.	-
Sat, Oct 22	Purdue *	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 29	Wisconsin *	at Madison, Wis.	-
Sat, Nov 05	Ohio State *	at Columbus, Ohio	-
Sat, Nov 12	Minnesota *	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Nov 19	Maryland *	Memorial Stadium	-
Fri, Nov 25	Iowa *	at Iowa City, Iowa	-

*Conference Games



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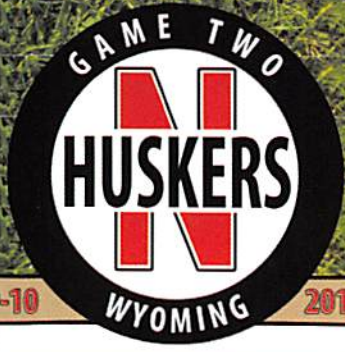
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2016 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown
1	Lamar Jackson	DB	6-3	195	Fr.	Elk Grove, Calif. (Franklin)	41	Luke McNitt	FB	6-2	240	Jr.	Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney)(Kearney)
1	Jordan Westerkamp	WR	6-0	200	Sr.	Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)	42	Trey Foster	TE	6-2	250	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
2	Tony Butler	DB	6-2	195	Fr.	Lakewood, Ohio (St. Edward)	43	Tyrin Ferguson	LB	6-2	225	So.	New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr)
2	Zack Darlington	WR	6-2	195	So.	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka)	43	Todd Honas	WR	5-11	200	Fr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
3	Lavan Alston Jr.	WR	6-0	175	RFr.	Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure)	44	Mitch McCann	FB	6-0	240	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
3	Marcus Newby	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard)	44	Mick Stoltzenberg	DL	6-5	290	So.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
4	Avery Anderson	S	6-0	185	RFr.	Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs))	45	Ty Chaffin	WR	6-5	200	Fr.	Burwell, Neb. (Burwell)
4	Tommy Armstrong Jr.	QB	6-1	220	Sr.	Cibola, Texas (Steele)	45	A.J. Natter	DE	6-5	260	Jr.	Milton, Wis. (Milton)
5	Dedrick Young II	LB	6-1	220	So.	Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial)	47	Branden Hohenstein	TE	6-4	205	Fr.	Jackson, Neb. (Bishop Heelan)
6	Eric Lee Jr.	CB	6-0	190	RFr.	Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado))	47	Matt Jarzynka	DE	6-4	255	So.	Loup City, Neb. (Loup City)
7	Mohamed Barry	LB	6-1	220	RFr.	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)	48	Erik Evans	DE	6-3	255	Jr.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
8	Chris Jones	CB	6-0	185	Jr.	Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood)	49	Austin Hemphill	FB	6-0	220	RFr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
8	Stanley Morgan Jr.	WR	6-1	200	So.	New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine)	49	Chris Weber	LB	6-3	230	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)
9	DaiShon Neal	DE	6-7	270	RFr.	Houston, Texas (Omaha Central)	50	Garret Johns	DL	6-0	285	Sr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
9	Keyan Williams	WR	5-10	195	So.	New Orleans, La. (Fresno State) (Lusher)	50	John Raridon	OL	6-4	275	Fr.	West Des Moines, Iowa (Valley)
10	Joshua Kalu	CB	6-1	190	Jr.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)	51	Jared Brugmann	LB	6-2	235	RFr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
10	JD Spielman	WR	5-9	180	Fr.	Eden Prairie, Minn. (Eden Prairie)	52	Josh Banderas	LB	6-3	240	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
11	Cethan Carter	TE	6-4	240	Sr.	New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel)	53	Alex Boryca	LB	6-2	220	So.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
11	Boaz Joseph	CB	6-1	190	Jr.	Weston, Fla. (Cypress Bay)	54	Creighton Hamik	LB	6-3	210	Fr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)
12	Luke Gifford	LB	6-3	230	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)	54	Jordan Ober	LS	6-1	205	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
12	Patrick O'Brien	QB	6-4	230	Fr.	San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (San Juan Hills)	54	Robby Painter	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Centennial, Colo. (Grandview)
13	JoJo Domann	DB	6-1	205	Fr.	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Pine Creek)	55	Kevin Maurice	DT	6-3	300	Sr.	Orlando, Fla. (Freedom)
13	Tanner Lee	QB	6-4	205	Jr.	Destrehan, La. (Tulane) (Jesuit)	56	Brad Simpson	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Ralston)
14	Kyle Kasun	DB	6-0	180	RFr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)	56	Boe Wilson	OL	6-3	295	Fr.	Lee's Summit, Mo. (Lee's Summit West)
15	De'Mornay Pierson-El	WR	5-9	185	Jr.	Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac)	57	Jacob Weinmaster	LB	6-0	215	RFr.	Loveland, Colo. (Loveland)
15	Michael Rose-Ivey	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)	58	Joel Lopez	DL	6-2	280	Jr.	Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central)
16	Antonio Reed	S	6-2	220	So.	Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.))	58	Corey Whitaker	OL	6-5	295	Sr.	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta)
17	Ryker Fyfe	QB	6-3	215	Sr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)	59	Brody Cleveland	LB	6-2	225	RFr.	Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala)
17	Sedrick King	DE	6-4	250	So.	Plant City, Fla. (Plant City)	61	Bryan Brokop	OL	6-5	275	Fr.	New Lenox, Ill. (Lincoln-Way West)
18	Tre Bryant	IB	5-11	200	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. (Christian Brothers College)	62	Cole Conrad	OL	6-5	305	So.	Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan)
19	Marquel Dismuke	DB	6-2	180	Fr.	Calabasas, Calif. (Calabasas)	63	Tanner Farmer	OL	6-4	295	So.	Highland, Ill. (Highland)
21	Charles Jackson	DB	5-11	180	Sr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)	65	Christian Gaylord	OL	6-6	300	RFr.	Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City)
21	Mikale Wilbon	IB	5-9	195	So.	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)	66	Dylan Utter	OL	6-1	295	Sr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista)
22	Alex Davis	DE	6-5	255	RFr.	Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer)	67	Jerald Foster	OL	6-3	310	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
22	Devine Ozigbo	IB	5-11	230	So.	Sachse, Texas (Sachse)	68	Nick Gates	OL	6-5	290	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
23	Dicaprio Bootle	DB	5-10	180	Fr.	Miami, Fla. (Southridge)	71	Matt Farnick	OL	6-6	300	Fr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)
23	Austin Rose	IB	6-1	225	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)	72	Zach Hannon	OL	6-5	315	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)
24	Aaron Williams	S	5-11	185	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (Carver)	73	Sam Hahn	OL	6-7	300	Sr.	DeWitt, Neb. (No. Dakota St.)(Tri-County)
25	Nathan Gerry	S	6-2	220	Sr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)	74	Jalin Barnett	OL	6-4	310	RFr.	Lawton, Okla. (Lawton)
26	Thomas Connely	LB	5-11	220	So.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	75	Fyn Anderson	DL	6-3	260	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
26	Brady Pelzer	WR	5-11	185	So.	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East)	76	Dwayne Johnson Jr.	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	Houston, Texas (Bellaire)
26	Jamie Sutcliffe	PK	6-2	190	Sr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College)(Thousand Oaks)	76	Dylan Owen	DL	6-5	240	So.	Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy)(Somers)
26	Kieron Williams	S	6-1	195	Jr.	Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep)(C.E. Byrd)	77	David Knevel	OL	6-9	315	Jr.	Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate)
27	Sam Foltz	P	6-2	205	Sr.	Greeley, Neb. (Grand Island)	79	Michael Decker	OL	6-4	285	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
28	Eli Sullivan	DB	6-2	190	Fr.	Longmont, Colo. (Longmont)	80	Brett Classen	WR	6-2	205	Jr.	Medina, Minn. (Winona State)(Wayzata)
28	Adam Taylor	IB	6-2	210	Jr.	Katy, Texas (Katy)	81	Gabe Rahn	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars)
29	Nolan Graham	DB	5-11	200	So.	Firth, Neb. (Norris)	82	Alonzo Moore	WR	6-2	195	Sr.	Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior)
29	Graham Nabity	IB	6-1	210	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)	83	David Engelhaupt	TE	6-3	230	Fr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
30	Quayshon Alexander	LB	6-3	235	Fr.	Prospect Park, N.J. (De Paul Catholic)	83	Bryan Reimers	WR	6-5	210	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East)
30	Bo Kitrell	FB	6-1	225	So.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)	84	Sam Cotton	TE	6-5	250	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
31	Greg Simmons	LB	6-2	240	Fr.	Fort Pierce, Fla. (Fort Pierce Central)	85	Matt Snyder	TE	6-5	255	RFr.	San Ramon, Calif. (California)
31	Conor Young	WR	6-2	170	RFr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)	86	Jack Stoll	TE	6-4	235	Fr.	Lone Tree, Colo. (Regis Jesuit)
32	Tanner Hass	RB	6-0	195	Fr.	West Point, Neb. (Guardian Angels)	87	Brandon Reilly	WR	6-2	200	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
32	Pernell Jefferson	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (Warren Easton)	88	Ross Dzuris	DE	6-3	255	Sr.	Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth)
33	Christian Bailey	WR	6-0	205	Jr.	San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente)	88	Tyler Hoppes	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne St.)(Southwest)
33	Tanner Zlab	DB	5-10	195	Sr.	Wilber, Neb. (Doane)(Wilber-Clatonia)	89	Connor Ketter	TE	6-5	245	Jr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
34	Drew Brown	PK	5-11	195	Jr.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)	91	Freedom Akinmoladun	DE	6-4	255	So.	Grandview, Mo. (Grandview)
34	Terrell Newby	IB	5-10	200	Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade)	92	Chase Urbach	LS	6-3	200	RFr.	Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South)
35	Caleb Lightbourn	P/PK	6-3	220	Fr.	Washougal, Wash. (Camas)	94	Khalil Davis	DT	6-2	290	RFr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
35	Jeremiah Stovall	DB	5-11	175	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)	95	Spencer Lindsay	PK	5-9	210	Sr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney)
36	Spencer Jordan	FB	6-2	215	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	95	Ben Stille	DE	6-5	240	Fr.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)
36	Reid Karel	DB	6-3	205	RFr.	Seward, Neb. (Seward)	96	Carlos Davis	DT	6-2	295	RFr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
37	Wyatt Mazour	IB	5-9	190	RFr.	Albion, Neb. (Boone Central)	97	Logan Rath	DT	6-4	280	Sr.	Giltner, Neb. (So. Dakota St.)(Giltner)
38	Harrison Jordan	FB	5-10	230	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	98	Isaac Armstrong	P	5-11	195	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Kearney)(Southwest)
39	Donovan McDonald	WR	5-11	175	RFr.	Montclair, N.J. (Fork Union Military Academy)(Montclair)	98	Collin Miller	DE	6-3	235	Fr.	Fishers, Ind. (Hamilton Southeastern)
39	Jordan Nelson	IB	5-8	180	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)	99	Peyton Newell	DT	6-3	290	So.	Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha)
40	Ty Betka	WR	5-7	165	Sr.	Superior, Neb. (Drake)	Jake Kitten	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	Santee, Calif. (Santana)	
40	Grant Jordan	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	Sean Lambert	IB	6-0	200	Fr.	Fremont, Neb. (Fremont)	
41	Noah Johnson	IB	6-0	210	RFr.	Sutton, Neb. (Sutton)	Ne'Land Smith	WR	6-3	190	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)	



2016 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 Northern Illinois W, 33-27
Sept. 10 @ Nebraska
 Sept. 17 UC Davis
 Sept. 23 @ E. Michigan
 Oct. 1 @ Colorado State
 Oct. 8 Air Force
 Oct. 22 @ Nevada
 Oct. 29 Boise State
 Nov. 5 Utah State
 Nov. 12 @ UNLV
 Nov. 19 San Diego State
 Nov. 26 @ New Mexico

2015 RESULTS (2-10, 2-6)

North Dakota L, 24-13
 Eastern Michigan L, 48-29
 @ Washington State L, 31-14
 New Mexico L, 38-28
 @ Appalachian State L, 31-13
 @ Air Force L, 31-17
 Nevada W, 28-21
 @ Boise State L, 34-14
 @ Utah State L, 58-27
 Colorado State L, 26-7
 @ San Diego State L, 38-3
 UNLV W, 35-28

COACH CRAIG BOHL

Bohl is in his third season at Wyoming and so far his success doesn't even come close to matching what he accomplished at North Dakota State. In two seasons at Laramie, he won



just six games. Last year his team lost six-consecutive games in a dismal 2-10 season. But Bohl has great experience in the college game. He was a defensive back for Nebraska from 1977-'79, then cut his teeth at a handful of colleges before becoming the linebacker coach and later defensive coordinator for the Huskers. He moved on to North Dakota State where he guided the Bison to a 104-32 record from 2003-2013, winning the FCS National Championship his last three seasons there. He also won three-consecutive FCS titles those seasons and was FCS Coach of the Year in 2012 and 2013.



Brian Hill

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos Courtesy of Wyoming Athletics

Cowboys Hope To Lay Trap for Huskers

Wyoming always seems to play Nebraska tough. The last three games these two schools from neighboring states played each other, the Cowboys not only made it respectable but almost pulled off the upset.

This year, Wyoming is still rebuilding under head coach Craig Bohl but they have extra motivation to give the Huskers a game. Here are three things to consider...

First, Bohl played and coached at Nebraska. Don't you think he would want to make his first return to Memorial Stadium a competitive one? He also has two former Husker players as assistant coaches. Second, the Cowboys have six Nebraska players on their roster. You better believe they will give their teammates an extra push for this game. And third, they are playing the Huskers at a good time. NU will be looking ahead to its matchup against Oregon, which makes this a potential trap game.

Wyoming cannot match the Huskers athletically but those three factors above could keep them in the game. But also consider the fact that the Cowboys will be much improved from last year and should play like it.

Since coming to Wyoming, Bohl knew he needed to build depth and experience so he started 26 freshmen throughout last season, which included 16 true freshmen.

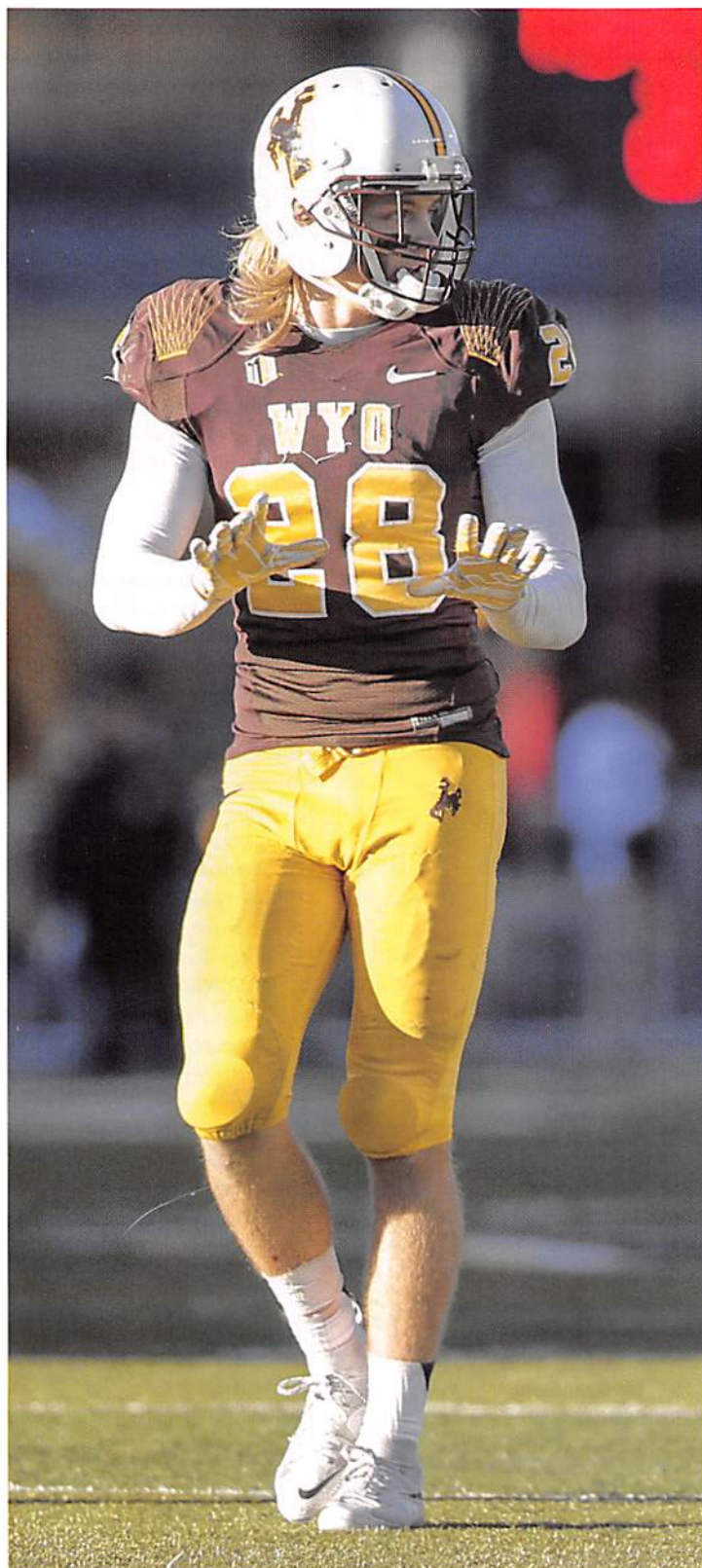
Nebraska will pull away in the fourth but expect this contest to be closer in the first three quarters to keep Husker fans nervous.

Prediction: Nebraska 41 Wyoming 17

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Andrew Wingard

Offensive Preview

Starters Returning/Lost:

8/3

Offense: Pro-Style, West Coast

Outlook: Redshirt sophomore and captain Josh Allen starts at quarterback. The 6-foot-5, 220-pounder played in two games in 2015, starting in one before suffering a collarbone injury that ended his season.

The main offensive threat for the Cowboys is junior running back Brian Hill. His 1,631 yards rushing set a single-season record at Wyoming. Entering 2016, Hill currently ranks fifth in career rushing yards at Wyoming and only needs 536 more to tie the career mark of 2,963.

Hill's production this season will depend on how well his offensive line blocks. Senior offensive guard Chase Roullier, a second-team All-Mountain West selection last year, will be the anchor.

Allen will have three experienced receivers to throw to in Tanner Gentry, Jake Maulhardt and tight end Jacob Hollister.

Defensive Preview

Starters Returning/Lost:

8/3

Defense: Tampa 2 (4-3)

Outlook: Wyoming gave up some points (34 avg.) and yards (442.1 avg.) last season. But if there is a strength to this group, it should be in the secondary.

Preseason All-Mountain West pick Andrew Wingard is a productive safety. He started as a true freshman last year and led the conference with almost seven solo tackles per game.

Opponents should make

hay in the run game against a Cowboys' defensive front that is inexperienced and not the biggest physically.

Special Teams Preview

Starters Returning/Lost:

1/1

Nothing special about this Cowboy unit but nothing bad either. Punter Ethan Wood is a fourth-year starter after averaging almost 42 yards per punt last year. True freshman Cooper Rothe is their field goal kicker.

Their strong suit will be coverage units. Last season they led their conference in opponent kickoff returns (21.3) and second in punt returns (4.6)

Did You Know?

Dallas Cowboy tight end great Jay Novacek was a two-sport All-American for Wyoming in 1984. Besides football he excelled in the decathlon and pole vault.

Fast Facts

Location: Laramie, WY
Enrollment: 13,929
First Year of Football: 1892
National Championships: 0
Conference Titles: 15
Stadium: War Memorial Stadium
Stadium Capacity: 29,181
Nickname: Cowboys
Mascot: Cowboy Joe
Colors: Brown & Gold
2015 Record: 2-10, 2-6
Conference: Mountain West

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WYOMING COWBOYS

2016 FOOTBALL ROSTER



No	Name	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Prev School)
2D	Robert Priestler	CB	Jr.	5-9	180	Tampa, Fla. (Robinson)	43	Ben Wisdorf	LB	RFr.	6-1	213	Cheyenne, Wyo. (East)
3D	Alijah Halliburton	S	Fr.	6-2	180	Aurora, Colo. (Overland)	44	Devin McKenna	LB	Sr.	6-2	228	Millstone, N.J. (Sacred Heart University, Conn.)
3	Joseph Parker	WR	So.	5-10	185	Castle Rock, Colo. (Cherry Creek)	45	Lucas Wacha	LB	Sr.	6-1	230	Texarkana, Texas (Pleasant Grove)
4	Tanner Gentry	WR	Sr.	6-2	210	Aurora, Colo. (Grandview)	46	Cassh Maluia	LB	Fr.	6-0	223	Paramount, Calif. (Paramount)
5D	Rico Gafford	CB	Jr.	5-11	180	West Des Moines, Iowa (Iowa Western CC)	47D	Drew Harvey	LB	Fr.	6-0	234	Crete, Ill. (Crete Monee)
5	Brian Hill	RB	Jr.	6-1	219	Bellevue, Ill. (Bellevue West)	47	Matt List	FB	So.	5-11	240	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Pine Creek)
6	Marcus Epps	DB	So.	6-0	203	Los Angeles, Calif. (Edison)	48	Jordan Ellis	FB	Sr.	6-2	250	Colorado Springs, Colo. (UT-San Antonio)
7	D.J. May	LB	Sr.	5-11	216	Federal Way, Wash. (Federal Way)	50	Adrian King	LB	Fr.	6-1	220	Denver, Colo. (George Washington)
8	Jalen Ortiz	FS	Jr.	5-10	196	Peoria, Ariz. (UCLA)	51	Trevor Meader	DE	Sr.	6-4	239	Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne State College)
9	Tyler Hall	CB	Fr.	5-10	184	Hawthorne, Calif. (Junipero Serra)	52	Jahmari Moore	LB	Fr.	6-2	219	Oak Park, Ill. (Oak Park and Forest River)
9D	Isaac Leppke	QB	Fr.	6-4	173	Dinuba, Calif. (Dinuba HS)	53	Josiah Hall	DE	RFr.	6-1	237	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Falcon)
11D	Chandler Garrett	QB	Fr.	6-5	213	Yukon, Okla. (Mustang)	54	Austin Lopez	LB	RFr.	6-3	223	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Palmer)
11	Eric Nzeocha	LB	Sr.	6-3	231	Neusitz, Germany (FOS Ansbach)	55	Gavin Rush	OL	Fr.	6-3	301	Phillips, Neb. (Aurora)
12D	Dontae Crow	WR	Fr.	5-9	170	Sheridan, Wyo. (Sheridan HS)	57	Chase Appleby	NT	Sr.	6-0	268	Frisco, Texas (Centennial)
12	Christian Irving	LB	So.	5-11	208	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (American Heritage)	58	Taniela Lolohea	DE	Jr.	6-1	253	Hawthorne, Calif. (El Camino CC, Calif.)
13	John Okwoli	WR	Fr.	6-2	205	Phoenix, Ariz. (North Canyon)	59	Ryan Cummings	OL	Jr.	6-6	319	Littleton, CO. (Valor Christian)
13D	Ethan Patrick	CB	Jr.	6-0	191	Laurel, MD (Laurel)	60D	Kendall Dickson	DE	Fr.	6-4	229	Carleton, Neb. (Bruning-Davenport)
14	C.J. Johnson	WR	RFr.	6-2	196	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue West)	60	Du-Ryan Ebbesen	C	Sr.	6-2	309	St. Croix, Virgin Islands (Cheyenne Central)
15	Nick Smith	QB	So.	6-4	229	Merritt Island, Fla. (Merritt Island)	61	Kaden Jackson	G	So.	6-2	294	Kingfisher, Okla. (Kingfisher)
15	Jaylon Watson	LB	RFr.	6-0	239	Broken Bow, Okla. (Broken Bow)	62	Eli Moody	T	Sr.	6-3	281	Lovell Wyo. (Rocky Mountain College)
16	Milo Hall	RB	RFr.	5-8	190	Denver, Colo. (Cherry Creek HS)	63	Dustin Weeks	OL	Fr.	6-8	288	Deering, N.D. (Glenburn)
16D	Riley Sessions	S	Fr.	5-11	193	Sheridan, Wyo. (Sheridan HS)	64	Charlie Renfree	C	Jr.	6-3	281	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Brophy Prep)
17	Josh Allen	QB	So.	6-5	222	Firebaugh, Calif. (Reedley College CC, Calif.)	65	Boyd Draeger	C	RFr.	6-4	296	Lakeville, Minn. (Lakeville North)
17D	DeAndre Watson	CB	RFr.	5-11	187	Los Angeles, Calif. (University of Washington)	66	Laitnam Johnson	OL	Fr.	6-5	243	Durango, Colo. (Durango)
18	Nick Szpor	QB	Fr.	6-3	202	Fresno, Calif. (Central HS)	67	Cole Turner	G	So.	6-4	280	Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Xavier)
19D	Ayden Eberhardt	WR	Fr.	6-2		Loveland, Colo. (Loveland HS)	68	Chris Steffy	OL	Fr.	6-5	293	Redmond, Ore. (Ridgeview)
19	Anthony Makransky	S	So.	5-10	184	Friendswood, Texas (Friendswood)	69	Richard Bettencourt	G	So.	6-3	310	Meridian, Idaho (Meridian)
20	Josh Boyd	S	Fr.	6-2	175	Bakersfield, Calif. (Bakersfield West)	71	Jace Webb	OL	Fr.	6-4	321	Hollis, Okla. (Hollis)
21D	Antonio Hull	CB	So.	5-10	188	Diamond Bar, Calif. (Diamond Bar)	72	Zach Wallace	T	So.	6-7	297	Lake Zurich, Ill. (Lake Zurich)
21	Shaun Wick	RB	Sr.	5-10	210	Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure)	73	Chase Roullier	G	Sr.	6-4	313	Savage, Minn. (Burnsville)
22	Nico Evans	RB	So.	5-9	206	Los Angeles, Calif. (Loyola)	74	Brinkley Jolly	T	So.	6-5	273	Liberty, Mo. (Liberty North)
22D	Sidney Washington Jr.	CB	Fr.	5-9	164	Fresno, Calif. (Bullard HS)	75	Kurtis Stirneman	G	Jr.	6-5	296	Lakewood, Ill. (Marian Central Catholic)
23D	Mike Green II	RB	Fr.	5-11	205	Sacramento, Calif. (Grant)	76	Darius Baker	DT	Jr.	6-3	289	Dodge City, Kan. (Dodge City CC)
23	Tim Kamana	LB	Jr.	5-11	213	Honolulu, Hawaii (West point Prep)	77	Pahl Schwab	T	RFr.	6-5	306	Afton, Wyo. (Star Valley)
24	Braden Smith	S	Fr.	5-10	177	Lakewood, Colo. (Lakewood)	78	Shane Henderson	DT	Fr.	6-0	317	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn South)
24D	Jerard Swan	WR	Fr.	6-0	186	Milwaukee, Wis. (Marquette HS)	80	James Price	WR	So.	6-2	208	Camas, Wash. (Camas)
25	Austin Conway	WR	RFr.	5-10	172	Aurora, Colo. (Overland HS)	81	Austin Fort	TE	So.	6-4	231	Gillette, Wyo. (Campbell County)
26	Nick Wilson	WR	Fr.	5-11	168	Parker, Colo. (Ponderosa HS)	82	Alec Stewart	TE	Fr.	6-4	223	Aliso Viejo, Calif. (Santa Margarita Catholic)
27	Davion Freeman	CB	RFr.	5-9	169	Del City, Okla. (Del City)	83	Jake Maulhardt	WR	Sr.	6-6	230	Camarillo, Calif. (Camarillo)
28	Garrett Gardner	RB	RFr.	6-0	205	St. Paul, Minn. (Central)	84	Grant Lewis	TE	So.	6-5	235	Memphis, Tenn. (White Station)
28	Andrew Wingard	FS	So.	6-0	207	Arvada, Colo. (Ralston Valley)	85	Tyree Mayfield	TE	So.	6-3	237	St. Joseph, Mo. (Central)
29D	Garrett Crall	DE	Fr.	6-5	221	Hicksville, Ohio (Hicksville HS)	86	Adam Kinder	DE	Sr.	6-2	252	Newport Beach, Calif. (Newport Harbor)
29	Kellen Overstreet	RB	So.	5-11	196	Hamilton, Mo. (Penney)	87	Conner Cain	DT	So.	6-4	279	Littleton, Colo. (Heritage)
30	Logan Wilson	LB	RFr.	6-2	225	Casper, Wyo. (Natrona County)	87D	Sam Maughan	TE	Fr.	6-3	220	Beaver Creek, Ore. (Oregon City)
31D	Isaac Jefferson	WR	RFr.	5-8	163	Rawlins, Wyo. (Rawlins)	88	Jacob Hollister	TE	Sr.	6-4	239	Bend Ore. (Arizona Western CC)
31	Chavez Pownell Jr.	S	So.	5-11	198	Tampa, Fla. (Jefferson)	89	Parker Dumas	WR	Fr.	6-5	200	North Bend, Wash. (Mount Si)
32D	Paul Lomanto	RB	Fr.	6-1	200	San Martin, Calif. (Live Oak)	90	Mark Hall	DE	Jr.	6-2	248	Council Bluffs, Iowa (Iowa Western CC)
32	Adam Pilapil	LB	So.	6-1	211	Torrance, Calif. (Loyola)	91	Carl Granderson	DE	So.	6-5	243	Sacramento, Calif. (Grant)
33	Josh Harshman	TE	So.	6-3	226	Casper, Wyo. (Natrona County)	92	Shiloh Windsor	DE	Fr.	6-3	224	Ada, Okla. (Ada)
34	Jaret Falkowski	DE	Fr.	6-3	243	Sunnyvale, Calif. (Kings Academy)	93	Youhanna Ghaifan	DT	RFr.	6-4	290	Grand Island, Neb. (Central Catholic)
35	Zach Taylor	FB	Fr.	5-11	214	Gillette, Wyo. (Campbell County)	94	Brendan Turelli	LS	Sr.	6-2	230	Phoenix, Ariz. (Arcadia)
36	Drew Van Maanen	FB	Jr.	6-1	241	Parker, Colo. (Chaparral)	95	Hunter Van Emmerik	DT	Jr.	6-4	281	Ferndale, Calif. (College of Redwoods CC, Calif.)
39	Justin Martin	K	Sr.	5-10	187	Oakdale, Calif. (Oakdale)	96	Sidney Malauulu	NT	So.	6-3	301	Seoul, South Korea (Buena)
40	Cooper Rothe	K	Fr.	5-11	170	Longmont, Colo. (Longmont)	97	Ja-Chai Baker	DT	Fr.	6-6	283	Council Bluffs, Iowa (Lewis Central)
41	Ethan Wood	K/P	Sr.	6-3	176	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Liberty)	98	Dalton Fields	DT	Jr.	6-3	284	Colorado Springs, CO. (Pine Creek)
42	Kevin Prosser	DE	So.	6-2	215	Aurora, Colo. (Overland)	99	Brent Gilliland	DL	RFr.	6-2	274	Sterling, Colo. (Sterling)

How Nebraska's Opponents Fared in Week One

Sept. 10

Wyoming (1-0)

Wyoming 33, Northern Illinois 27

Wyoming quarterback Josh Allen scrambled from seven yards out to score and win in three overtimes on Saturday. Huskies quarterback Drew Hare hooked up with Jacob Hollister for a 19-yard touchdown with 1:13 left in the fourth quarter to tie the game. After a Northern Illinois fumble in the first overtime, the Cowboys missed a 38-yard field goal to send the game into the second overtime. Both teams scored a touchdown in the second overtime before Allen won the game for Wyoming.

Sept. 17

Oregon (1-0)

Oregon 53, UC-Davis 28

After trailing, 7-0, Oregon's offense came alive at the end of the first quarter. Running back Royce Freeman scored from six yards out to put the Ducks on the board. The Ducks went on to score in their next four of six drives to close the game. Quarterback Dakota Prukop was impressive in his debut. The Montana State graduate transfer went 21 of 30 for 271 yards and four touchdowns.

Sept. 24

Northwestern (0-1)

Western Michigan 22, Northwestern 21

Northwestern couldn't get the job done when they had the opportunity. Western Michigan went 4 for 4 on fourth down conversions in the upset. The Wildcats had a chance to win the game in the final drive of the fourth quarter but quarterback Clayton Thorson fumbled the football on the one-yard line to be upset by the Broncos. Northwestern will try to get back on track next week against Illinois State at home.

Oct. 1

Illinois (1-0)

Illinois 52, Murray State 3

The Lovie Smith era started off on the right track in Champaign. The Illinois defense intercepted the Racers on their first two drives of the game, leading to Illinois touchdowns. The defense allowed -10 yards on 26 carriers from the Murray State rushing attack. Quarterback Wes Hunt led the Fighting Illini offense with 226 passing yards and three touchdowns.

Oct. 15

Indiana (1-0)

Indiana 34, Florida International 13

Indiana found a way to win down one on the road going into the fourth quarter. A passing touchdown and rushing touchdown by Hoosier quarterback Richard Lagow and an interception for a touchdown by Tegray Scales sealed the victory. Hoosier running back Devine Redding rushed for 135 yards on 22 carriers.

Oct. 22

Purdue (1-0)

Purdue 45, Eastern Kentucky 24

Purdue intercepted a pair of passes in the first in the first quarter to jump out to a 21-0 lead. Eastern Kentucky turned the ball over four times in the game. A feat Purdue head coach Darrell Hazell has failed to in his first three seasons. Seven of the last 12 opponents have scored at least 41 points on the Boilermakers. Quarterback David Blough threw for 235 yards and a touchdown, adding two more touchdowns on the ground.

Oct. 29

Wisconsin (1-0)

Wisconsin 16, LSU 14

Safety D'Cota Dixon interception with 52 seconds left in the fourth quarter in the stunning victory over LSU. Kicker Rafael Gaglianone hits field goals from 30, 48 and 47, including the goal ahead field goal with 3:47 left in the fourth quarter. Running back Corey Clement rushed for 86 yards and a touchdown in the victory.

Nov. 5

Ohio State (1-0)

Ohio State 77, Bowling Green 10

Ohio State rolled in record-breaking fashion. The Buckeyes totaled 776 yards of total offense and quarterback J.T. Barrett was responsible for seven touchdowns to break both school records. The offense combined for 10 total touchdowns after giving up a interception for a touchdown in the first quarter. Running back Mike Weber rushed for 136 yards.

Nov. 12

Minnesota (1-0)

Minnesota 30, Oregon State 23

The Golden Gophers scored 13 points in the fourth quarter to squeeze by the Beavers. Three Minnesota defensive starters were ejected for targeting throughout the game. Quarterback Mitch Leidner and running back Rodney Smith each had a pair of touchdowns in the comeback win.

Nov. 19

Maryland (1-0)

Maryland 52, Howard 13

DJ Durkin won his first game as head coach for the Terrapins. Howard failed to convert a first-down in their first five possessions leading to a 35-0 lead at halftime. Six different players rushed for a touchdown. Quarterback Perry Hills threw for 126 yards leading the Terrapins to a touchdown in their first five possessions.

Nov. 25

Iowa (1-0)

Iowa 45, Miami (OH) 21

The Iowa defense struggled at times after jumping out to a 21-0 lead but the Hawkeyes rushing attack look as impressive. Running backs Akrum Wadley and LeShun Daniels combine for 204 yards and four touchdowns as C.J. Beathard added 192 yards threw the air.

This Week In Husker History

Sept. 5, 1998

Story by Kevin Houck • Huskers Illustrated File Photo

You might remember Eric Crouch.

The Millard North option quarterback, who went on to play at Nebraska and win a Heisman Trophy. He's one of three Huskers to ever capture this award.

Sept. 5, 1998 is when Husker Nation got its first glimpse of what ended up to be one of the best careers ever by a Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The redshirt freshman Crouch received the nod against Alabama- Birmingham at home in place of Bobby Newcombe, who was also a redshirt freshman. Newcombe was recovering from a slight knee ligament tear in the previous week's victory over Louisiana Tech.

UAB was Nebraska second game of the season in 1998. In back-to-back weeks, two Nebraska quarterbacks would make their first collegiate start. Going into the game, Nebraska was ranked fourth in the nation in the AP Poll.

As many of you know, the Huskers offense was focused on the run game in these years. When people remember Eric Crouch they remember his running ability, and of course his touchdown reception on a wide receiver reverse pass against Oklahoma.

On the Huskers' third drive of the game, Crouch led his first touchdown drive with Joel Makovicka capping off the drive with a three-yard run. Makovicka finished the game with eight carries for 27 yards.

UAB responded to the Huskers' production. They led a 16-play drive for 80 yards to cap off a two-yard touchdown run to close the gap, 14-7 Huskers.

What is shocking about Crouch's debut is in his first seven plays with the ball in his hands, they were all passes. Even more shocking is his first career touchdown came as a 15-yard pass to Sheldon Jackson in the beginning of the second quarter on the Huskers' fourth drive of the game to put the Huskers up 14-0. Crouch ended up completing 11 of 17 for 127 yards and a touchdown.

In that span of Nebraska's first four drives, every run play either went to Correll Buckhalter or Joel Makovicka. Buckhalter finished with 19 carries for 96 yards. It wasn't until towards the end of halftime that



Eric Crouch visits with NU quarterbacks coach Turner Gill.

Crouch ran the ball for the first time but was stopped for a loss on his first three carries to open up his rushing career at Nebraska.

Those carries didn't diminish Crouch's confidence. In the same drive Crouch scored his first rushing touchdown as a Husker. — an 11-yard run with 11 seconds left in the half to give NU a 21-7 lead. The Huskers failed to get anything going in the third quarter. Both teams failed to put points on the board heading into the fourth quarter.

Former Husker kicker Kris Brown added a 27-yard field goal to start the fourth quarter to put the Huskers up 24-7.

Crouch again scored in the fourth quarter on a 56-yard touchdown run. He finished with seven carries for 69 yards on the ground. After punting their first two drives of the game, the Huskers scored on six of their final eight drives.

On both his touchdown runs, he ran for a total of 70 yards, meaning in his other five carries he ran for negative one yard. Those two carries for positive yards are what jumpstarted Crouch's legacy at Nebraska.

Nebraska won the game, 38-7, and third-string senior quarterback Monte Christo even received playing time, going 4-4 for 81 yards and a touchdown in fourth-quarter mop-up duty.

This game in Husker history is the only time Nebraska has ever played UAB, which disbanded its football program in 2015.

Nebraska went on to a 9-4 record in 1998, losing to Arizona, 23-20, in the Holiday Bowl.

Brown, Crouch, Buckhalter and Makovicka in the same article. Hopefully nostalgia kicked in. But as many know, the rest is history. Crouch went on to break and still holds the Huskers record for most rushing yards by a quarterback at 3,434 yards and total touchdowns at 90. Crouch became one of the best to ever put on the Husker uniform and Newcombe ended up making the switch to wide receiver.

Both went on to have short NFL careers. Newcombe was briefly with the Arizona Cardinals and Crouch with the St. Louis Rams.



A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **BOB CHURCHICH**

Football Player 1964-66

Column by Butch Rasmussen

You can call him 1962 Omaha High School Athlete of the Year,

You can call him an All-America baseball player for the Huskers during his playing career.

Or you can just call the guy Bob Churchich, ramrod of one of the best high school football teams in the Omaha area during the early part of the 1960s.

Churchich was a 4 sport athlete at North high school. Football and basketball of course. A hurdler on the track team and a third baseman and pitcher on the baseball team.

His high school Legion baseball team, representing Nebraska, made it to the American Legion World Series in Hastings in 1961 and finished third in the 8 team double elimination bracket.

Baseball was his best and favorite sport. But Churchich saw football as the funding source for his college education since colleges only offered partial scholarships in baseball.

He was recruited to play football by Husker assistant coach Cletus Fisher and then offered a scholarship when head coach Bob Devaney called on him in his home.

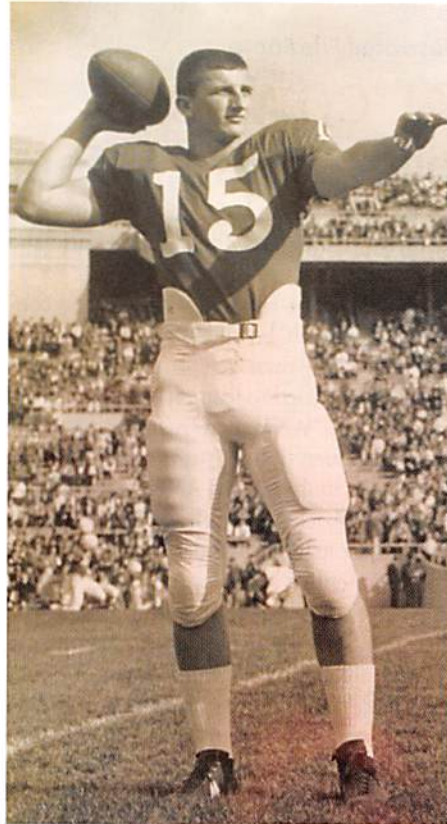
Churchich became the starting quarterback the third game into his varsity career when starter Fred Duda suffered a broken leg.

This group of Huskers put together a remarkable string of regular season games during their 3 years on the field (1964-66). They played a 10 game regular season schedule and all 3 of those seasons they won their first 9 games.

Oklahoma was game 10 every year and - well, you know how that goes. The Sooners were always strong competition. Churchich and mates dropped the '64 match 17-7, won the '65 game 21-9, then fell in Norman in '66 by a single point 10-9.

These Huskers out scored the Sooners in those 3 games 37-36 but not in the win / loss column.

Give them the credit for winning 28 of 30 games in the regular seasons of their varsity



careers as Huskers but these guys never had the pleasure of winning a bowl game.

They fell to #3 Arkansas 10-7 in the 1964 Cotton Bowl, dropped one by ten to #4 Alabama in the '65 Orange Bowl 39-29 and lost to #3 Alabama again in the '66 Sugar Bowl 34-7.

Arkansas finished that 1964 season ranked number 2 in the AP poll and 'Bama won the 1965 National Championship.

Churchich and friends lost only 5 games in 3 seasons and the competition was against the best in the nation. They finished as high as 3rd in the polls and never lower than 7th in the AP or UPI.

Churchich says much of the credit for the team's success should go to the defense. "Our defense was outstanding" he said, as he began to mention the names one after another of the guys he remembered from the defensive team.

He was doing his part for the cause by racking up 14 Husker passing records, while

earning a spot on the 1966 All-Big 8 Conference first team.

Every year after the football season finished Churchich stepped out of his football shoes into his baseball cleats and became a baseball player for the Huskers and a darned good one at that.

At the conclusion of his junior season he was selected to the All-Big 8 and Coaches All-American baseball teams and was the Big 8 Batting Champion finishing the 1965 season with an impressive 385 batting average.

During his Senior year, Churchich broke his right hand in a game with Missouri. When he was drafted by the Atlanta Braves he was assigned to the Jamestown, NY Braves of the NY/Penn League. The broken hand made baseball a challenge for the first 20 or so games but he still was selected at seasons end to the league all star team.

Churchich elected to forgo his professional baseball career, returned to Lincoln, and coached the Husker freshman football team as a graduate assistant. Those freshman went on to win Nebraska's first national championships

After graduation, Bob returned to Omaha, worked for Mutual of Omaha, and played for the Omaha Mustang football team 1968, 69, 70.

In 1974 Churchich and wife Barbara moved to Boulder Colorado and started their business of selling playground and recreation equipment under the name of Churchich Recreation

Barbara's been ringing Bob's bell since the 8th grade in junior high school in Omaha, and they were married the summer prior to their senior year at Nebraska. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in August. Their daughters Stephanie and Jennifer and son Chris all work in the business. Churchich is now retired and has turned over the business to Chris.

He tries to get back to one Husker game a year and plans to be in Lincoln for the Oregon game this year.

That game promises to be a good one.



Story By Shane G. Gilster • Huskers Illustrated File Photo

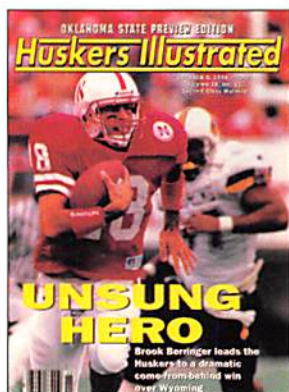
HUSKERS CORRAL COWBOYS

Berringer leads NU in high-scoring affair

Nebraska 42, Wyoming 32

Oct. 1, 1994 in Lincoln, Nebraska

It wasn't supposed to be this close of a game. Even though starting quarterback Tommie Frazier was out due to a blood clot in his leg, second-ranked Nebraska (4-0) was still supposed to handle the Wyoming Cowboys (2-2), 40-point underdogs, with relative ease. NU had its vaunted Blackshirt defense and I-back Lawrence Phillips, the third-leading rusher in the country with an average of 154 yards per game. And even though its quarterback Brook Berringer was getting his first start at the helm, his coaches and teammates were confident in his ability to lead the team. "He hasn't really had a chance to lead the offense yet. I wasn't really in the game too much when he was in the last game," Phillips told AP. "But I think as far as everybody else is concerned who's played with him, they're pretty confident in his leadership abilities." Like the Huskers, the Cowboys had a quarterback making his first start in the game, but also featured one of the nation's top rushers. Redshirt freshman



Jeremy Dombek broke all of Troy Aikman's high school passing records in Oklahoma, and the 240-pound Ryan Christopherson was fifth in the nation in rushing with an average of 152 yards. But the sun never showed its face during a gray day, reflecting a sense of uneasiness that settled on the Memorial Stadium crowd of 76,234 during the game. Dombek and the Cowboys struck first with two first-quarter touchdown passes by Domek. The first was a 39-yarder to Marcus Harris on their second possession, and the second was a six-yarder to Jeremy Gilstrap with 25 seconds left in the opening quarter. "It was one of the more memorable games for me," said Phil Ellis, a junior linebacker at the time. "We played just our base defense at first, but later had to call defenses that we were saving for teams we would

play later in the season. I remember we ran a blitz and (Troy) Dumas hit their quarterback and bent his face mask up."

Meanwhile, the Huskers were using a conservative approach on offense with Berringer. The Big Red only managed 58 yards in the first quarter as they tried to lean on Phillips and the rushing attack. "We went away from a lot of the bread-and-butter option stuff when Tommie (Frazier) was in there," said Abdul Muhammad, a senior wingback at the time, who tied for the team lead in catches with four for 30 yards in the game. "I remember a lot more of Lawrence Phil-

lips and some more passing." But Wyoming made that plan difficult to stay with. After a one-yard touchdown leap by Phillips cut the lead to 14-7 with 5:25 remaining in the half, the Cowboys came up with an interception at the NU 22-yard line. A one-yard run by Terry Hendricks made the score 21-7 with 2:12 remaining, as the day just got gloomier for Husker fans. "Wyoming had a bunch of guys on its team from Nebraska," said Joel Wilks, a senior starter at left guard. "I actually played

with five or six of them in the Nebraska Shrine Bowl and in an all-star game over in Australia, so I knew them pretty well. They didn't receive a scholarship to Nebraska, so they had a chip on their shoulder and were really fired up, causing it to be an intense game." But Berringer led a comeback just before halftime, completing seven straight passes on a 64-yard drive, running for a tough five-yard touchdown with just 12 seconds left to make the score 21-14. "I remember us waking up towards the end of the first half," Muhammad said. "I made a couple catches to help get us in position to score. That got us going into the second half. There was no panic at halftime... We could have been down 30-0 and we still would think we would win." On his touchdown run at the end of the first half, Berringer



Nebraska I-Back Lawrence Phillips goes up and over

suffered a collapsed lung, but he played the entire second half and turned in one of his best performances of the season. The junior tied the game four plays into the second half on a nifty 24-yard touchdown run, which came on the heels of a 25-yard run. The Husker onslaught began to catch fire as the defense made a key play, with cornerback Barron Miles intercepting a Wyoming pass at the Cowboy 40. On the next play, Phillips, who ran for 168 yards on 27 carries, raced in for a score to make it 28-21 NU. Berringer, who ran for 74 yards on 12 carries, added his third touchdown at the 8:11 mark when he faked an option pitch to Phil-



for a touchdown run against Wyoming during the 1994 matchup in Lincoln.

lips, cut inside and ran in from 10 yards out.

Wyoming added a field goal to make it 35-24 going into the fourth quarter, but Husker fans felt more at ease with the way Berringer and the offense were playing.

"It took us a little while to get it going and get acclimated to Brook being the quarterback, but once we did, we started putting some points up on the board," Muhammad said.

But it was the Blackshirts that gave fans heartburn as they gave up an 86-yard scoring drive to backup quarterback John Gustin and the Cowboys. After a two-yard touchdown

pass from Gustin to Gilstrap, the two hooked up again for a successful two-point conversion.

The score now read 35-32 with 9:09 left in the game.

Berringer and the offense was forced to punt, and it looked like the Cowboys had a great chance to take the lead, or at least tie late. But Lady Luck was on the Huskers' side this day.

Wyoming returner Je'Ney Jackson bobbled a fair catch, and back-up I-back Damon Benning pounced on it at the Cowboy eight-yard line.

The air went out of the Wyoming sideline

as Phillips ran it in from there on the very next play to make it a final score of 42-32.

"We just know we can play better," Berringer said after the game. "But 42 points? We must have done something right."

Even though the Blackshirts gave up 32 points and 344 yards passing, they held Christopherson to zero yards on 12 carries and came up with a key interception and stops to help preserve the win.

A win was all Muhammad wanted. "All I cared about was when that scoreboard clock hit zero that we had more points than the other team."

2016 Schedule

VERT Challenge at Eugene, Oregon

Aug. 26 Florida W, 3-1
Aug. 27 Texas W, 3-0

Nebraska Invite at Lincoln, Nebraska

Sept. 2 Iowa State W, 3-0
Sept. 3 Oregon State 2:30 p.m.

Lobo Classic at Albuquerque, N.M.

Sept. 8 Montreal (Exh.) 6 p.m.
Sept. 9 Arkansas 6 p.m.
Sept. 10 New Mexico 8:30 p.m.

Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center

Sept. 16 Montana State Noon
Sept. 16 Gonzaga 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 17 Creighton 8 p.m.

Sept. 23 at Michigan 6 p.m.
Sept. 24 at Michigan State TBA
Sept. 28 at Illinois 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 1 Ohio State 7 p.m.
Oct. 7 Indiana 7 p.m.
Oct. 9 Purdue 2 p.m.
Oct. 14 at Ohio State 5 p.m.
Oct. 16 at Maryland Noon
Oct. 21 Wisconsin 8 p.m.
Oct. 23 Minnesota 1 p.m.
Oct. 28 Illinois 6 p.m.
Oct. 29 Northwestern 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 at Penn State 7 p.m.
Nov. 5 at Rutgers 6 p.m.
Nov. 9 Iowa 6 p.m.
Nov. 12 at Indiana 6 p.m.
Nov. 16 Penn State 7 p.m.
Nov. 19 at Iowa 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 23 at Minnesota 8 p.m.
Nov. 26 Michigan 7 p.m.
Dec. 1-3 NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds TBD
Dec. 9-10 NCAA Regionals - TBD
Dec. 15 NCAA Semis at Columbus,
Dec. 17 NCAA Finals at Columbus



DREAMING BIGGER

2016 Nebraska Volleyball Roster

No.	Name	Position	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous School)
2	Mikaela Foecke	MB/OH	6-3	So.	West Point, Iowa (Holy Trinity Catholic)
3	Kelly Hunter	Setter	5-11	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
4	Justine Wong-Orantes	Libero	5-6	Sr.	Cypress, Calif. (Los Alamitos)
5	Amber Rolfzen	Outside Hitter	6-3	Sr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
6	Kadie Rolfzen	Outside Hitter	6-3	Sr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-La Vista South)
7	Sydney Townsend	Libero	5-8	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
8	Brooke Smith	Setter	5-10	So.	Weatherford, Texas (Azle)
9	Andie Malloy	Outside Hitter	6-2	Sr.	Allen, Texas (Baylor) (Lovejoy)
10	Hunter Atherton	Setter	5-11	Fr.	Prospect, Ohio (Dublin Coffman)
11	Kenzie Maloney	DS/Libero	5-8	So.	Louisville, Ky. (Assumption)
13	Briana Holman	Middle Blocker	6-1	Jr.	DeSoto, Texas (LSU) (Cedar Hill)
17	Annika Albrecht	Outside Hitter	6-0	Jr.	North Aurora, Ill. (Home Schooled)
22	Tiani Reeves	Outside Hitter	6-1	RFr	Gothenburg, Neb. (Gothenburg6
26	Lauren Stivrins	Middle Blocker	6-4	Fr.	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Chaparral)
27	Olivia Boender	Outside Hitter	6-2	So.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)

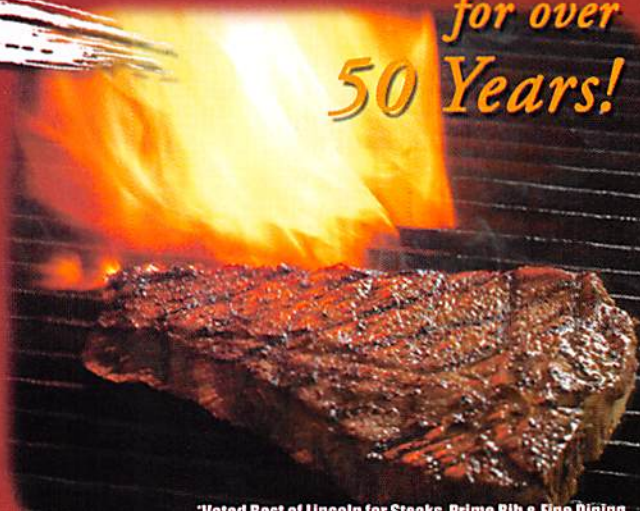
Coaches: John Cook, Dani Busboom-Kelly, Chris Tamas, Jen Tamas
 Director of Operations: Lindsay Peterson

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Gothenburg native Tiana Reeves got a much later start in competitive volleyball than most of her teammates, but she has made drastic improvement since

WANTING TO FIT IN

Gothenburg native Tiana Reeves loves being part of Husker family

Story by Bob Hamar • Photo by Mitch Otto

Tiana Reeves isn't your typical Nebraska volleyball player.

The 6-foot-1 redshirt freshman middle blocker from Gothenburg, Nebraska, didn't have the same intensive club volleyball experience that her other Husker teammates shared.

Reeves didn't start playing volleyball until her freshman season at Gothenburg, and she didn't play club ball until she was a junior.

"It helped," she said of her twice-weekly trips to Lincoln for club ball. "They were long days, long hours, but they've been putting that work in since they were 6 years old, so I could deal with a few road trips."

But her pure athletic ability gave her a chance to compete at the highest level. Reeves showed that athletic ability by winning five state track and field gold medals, including three in the long jump and two in the triple jump.

"It was a really individualized sport," Reeves said. "I came here and I really wanted to be a part of the family. That's what we are, and they embraced me. If I made mistakes, they were always there to pick me up, so a lot of my growth is due to my teammates."

That high school experience didn't really prepare her for what coach John Cook had in store for her on the Husker volleyball team. It was a tough first season.

"Coach had a saying that if I thought I was doing something right, I was doing it wrong," Reeves said. "So I just tried to take it all in, and try to do everything to the best of my abilities and build the fundamental base that I didn't have that maybe everybody else had."

Cook said Reeves is progressing, but she still has a long way to go.

"She's a lightyear ahead of where she was last year to the point where we can have her in drills and things like that," Cook said. "She's still a year away from being in a match. But she jump touched 10-6. She's very athletic. She's a good blocker. She just has to catch up with the speed of the game. She's making really good progress. I think if you ask her, that's what she'll tell you."

Reeves reiterated what her coach said.

"I definitely feel like I'm getting there," Reeves said. "I got a compliment the other day. That was a big deal. I'm definitely getting there and improving. I just have to keep plugging away."

Reeves couldn't play during the Huskers' run to the NCAA championship, even if she had been ready, because she was redshirting. But she still got to practice with the team and stand on the sidelines as the Huskers won the school's fourth national championship and the third for Cook.

"It was like the craziest thing I've ever done in my life. It meant so much to me," Reeves said. "I was one of those kids watching on the TV when they won in 2006 (the last national title won by Nebraska). To think there are little girls looking at me the same way is insane."

"It's just kind of full circle. I think it only makes me hungrier, but again it made all of us hungrier. Nothing but that feeling will ever compare so we have to work twice as hard to do the same thing again."

At some point Reeves hopes to get the chance to play during a real game at the Bob Devaney Sports complex. At this point, she can only imagine how that would be.

"I think you wouldn't notice the atmosphere," Reeves said. "Of course it's loud and there's 8,000 people, but I think there's a little extra focus and you'd be so focused on what you're doing that you wouldn't hear the crowd until after a really big point, so I'm sure it will be a little different. We're used to it but I'll be dialed in either way."

Reeves could have gone somewhere else for college to compete in track and field. However, that wasn't where her heart was.

"I just fell in love with the game," Reeves said. "I fell in love with being a part of a team, something you don't really have in track when you're doing it individually. When the opportunity arose to play at Nebraska, there was no way I could say no."



Joining the Huskers.

NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Reggie Ryder

FIRST WEEKEND A SUCCESS

Nebraska coach John Cook was certainly concerned about the opening weekend. The Huskers were going to play No. 10 Florida and No. 2 Texas at the VERT Challenge in Eugene, Oregon.

The Huskers passed that test by dropping the Gators 3-1, then sweeping the Longhorns the next night.

"You never know how your team is going to respond even though we return a lot of players," Cook said. "What was pleasing for me and I communicated it to them was the effort they've put in since January. It would have been very easy for them to say, 'Hey, we're defending national champs. We're going on cruise control. We have it all figured out.'"

"They've actually worked harder this year than they did last year. That's what was rewarding as a coach."

Maybe that's why Cook was emotional after the win over Texas. How emotional he was depends on who you ask.

Cook didn't think he was that emotional, but that's not what senior outside hitter Kadie Rolfzen saw in the locker room after the win over Texas.

"He had everybody come in for a little group hug," Rolfzen said. "He actually kind of started tearing up and crying. It might have been because last year people thought we only won because we were in Omaha, but he told us that you guys are putting in the work to make us unstoppable, which is one of our themes this year."

"I just think for him as a coach, that's what you want from your players. You want them to buy into what you're trying to tell them and what you envision the team can do."

Rolfzen said the team had never seen Cook cry before, but they think he did after the Huskers national championship last season. After the Texas match, he let the whole team see it.

"But that was actually the first time he was open about it," Rolfzen said. "He said, 'It's OK to cry.'"

JUST ONE PROBLEM

Cook had only one complaint about the VERT Challenge, and it was beyond his control. There was no television coverage of the event even though it featured four Top 10 teams.

That's something he wants to change with the Huskers host the tournament.

"That's one of the frustrations," Cook said. "If it was football it would have Game Day and been televised and all that. I think that's one of the frustrations from the coaches. Why aren't those matches on TV?"

"When we host in (2018), we'll try to figure out the best we can so we can get maximum exposure."

BLOCKING NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

The Huskers had 16.5 blocks in the first two matches, but Cook said the blocking game needs to improve.

"When you have the athletes those teams have, you have to get two blockers on them, and they got too many one-on-ones on us for my liking," Cook said. "Blocking is the thing that's behind the farthest this time of year because you can simulate it in practice but it's different in a game."

Junior Briana Holman had 10 of those blocks and opened the season with an ace block against Florida, but her teammates didn't see much of a re-

action from her.

"She didn't smile at all," Rolfzen said. "We said, 'Bri, it's OK to smile.' She is just very serious all the time. That's something we're working on. She knows what she needs to do."

BACK ROW DEFENSE

Cook saw some great back row defense that opening weekend from libero Justine Wong-Orantes and defensive specialists Annika Albrecht and Kenzie Maloney.

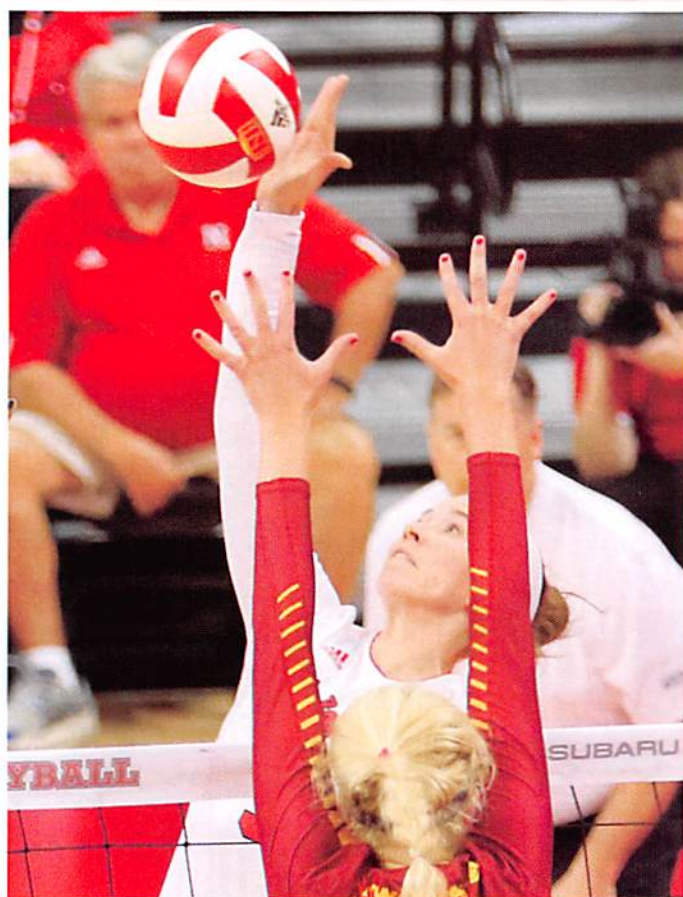
"Our back row people dug some great shots," Cook said. "At one point they got a standing ovation for a rally. They made like five incredible digs. They were flying all over the place and the crowd gave them a standing ovation."

Cook said that kind of defense can really affect an opposing team's offense.

"When your hitters get dug, that messes with you a little bit," Cook said. "It really starts making you think and you try harder and tense up a little bit. We dug some shots early and got in a really nice defensive rhythm."



Mikaela Foecke tips over the Iowa State block.



Clockwise from left: Andie Malloy hits over the Iowa State block. Briana Holman makes an attack against Iowa State as Kelly Hunter looks on. Hunter tips the ball over the Cyclones' block during NU's home opener on Friday night.

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